

essential facts concerning the medical cause of death and, before leaving the premises, reduce these facts and the names and addresses of witnesses to writing, which shall be filed in the medical examiner's office.

(d) The medical examiner or the investigator shall take possession of and deliver to the State's Attorney or the State's Attorney's designee any object or article that, in the opinion of the medical examiner or the investigator, may be useful in establishing the cause of death.

(e) (1) If the next of kin of the deceased is not present at the investigation, the police officer or sheriff at the investigation or, if a police officer or sheriff is not present, the medical examiner or the investigator shall:

(i) Take possession of all property of value found on the body;

(ii) In the report of the death, make an exact inventory of the property; and

(iii) Deliver the property to the appropriate sheriff or police department.

(2) The sheriff or police department shall surrender the property to the person who is entitled to its possession or custody.

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(a) If the cause of death in a medical examiner's case is established beyond a reasonable doubt, the medical examiner who investigates the case shall file in the medical examiner's office a report on the cause of death within 30 days after notification of the case.

(b) (1) If the medical examiner who investigates a medical examiner's case considers an autopsy necessary, the Chief Medical Examiner, the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner, an assistant medical examiner, or a pathologist authorized by the Chief Medical Examiner shall perform the autopsy.

(2) If the family of the deceased objects to an autopsy on religious grounds, the autopsy may not be performed unless authorized by the Chief Medical Examiner or by the Chief Medical Examiner's designee.

(c) (1) [If the family of the deceased does not object, a] A medical examiner shall conduct an autopsy of any fire fighter AND ANY SWORN PERSONNEL OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE [whose death in the line of duty appears to be fire related, or to have been caused by the inhalation of toxic gases or toxic fire atmospheres.] WHO DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY OR AS A RESULT OF INJURIES SUSTAINED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.