

(1984 Volume and 1991 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article - State Government

Section 10-204 and 10-625

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1984 Volume and 1991 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Health - General

5-310.

(a) If the cause of death is established to a reasonable degree of medical certainty, 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) A medical examiner shall conduct an autopsy of any fire fighter and any sworn personnel of the State Fire Marshal's Office who dies in the line of duty or as a result of injuries sustained in the line of duty.

(2) The autopsy shall include:

- (i) A toxicological analysis for toxic fumes;
- (ii) Gross and microscopic studies of heart, lung, and any other tissue involved;
- (iii) Appropriate studies of blood and urine; and
- (iv) Appropriate studies of body fluids and body tissues.

(3) If the medical examiner determines toxic fumes were the cause of death, the medical examiner shall:

- (i) Investigate to the extent possible the source of the fumes; and
- (ii) Prepare a written report on the specific effects of the fumes on human tissue.