

(c) The provisions of this subtitle are subject to the laws prescribing powers and duties with respect to autopsies and are not in contravention of them.

4-509.

(a) [In any case where a patient is in immediate need for an internal organ as a transplant, the] THE Chief Medical Examiner, the deputy chief medical examiner, or an assistant medical examiner may provide [the] AN organ OR TISSUE upon the request of the [transplanting surgeon] FEDERALLY DESIGNATED ORGAN PROCUREMENT ORGANIZATION OR TISSUE BANK under the following conditions:

(1) The medical examiner has charge of a decedent who may provide a suitable organ OR TISSUE for [the] transplant;

(2) A reasonable, unsuccessful search has been made by the treating physician and the hospital where the patient is located to contact the next of kin;

(3) No [known] objection by the next of kin is [foreseen] KNOWN by the medical examiner; and

(4) The organ OR TISSUE for transplant will not interfere with the subsequent course of an investigation or autopsy.

(b) (1) The Chief Medical Examiner, the deputy chief medical examiner, [and] an assistant chief medical examiner, THE ORGAN PROCUREMENT ORGANIZATION, AND THE TISSUE BANK are not liable for civil action if the next of kin is located subsequently and contends that authorization of that kin was required, if the Chief Medical Examiner has obtained a written OR VERBAL statement from the treating physician, ORGAN PROCUREMENT ORGANIZATION, TISSUE BANK, or [the] hospital where the [patient] DECEDENT was located that a reasonable unsuccessful search was conducted for the next of kin prior to the removal of the ORGAN OR tissue for transplantation.

(2) A VERBAL STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE DOCUMENTED IN THE DECEDENT'S MEDICAL RECORD.

4-509.1.

(a) In any case where there is a need for corneal tissue for a transplant or research, the Chief Medical Examiner, the deputy chief medical examiner, or an assistant medical examiner shall provide the cornea upon the request of the Medical Eye Bank of Maryland, Incorporated, or the Lions of District 22-C Eye Bank and Research Foundation, Incorporated, subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, and under the following conditions:

(1) The medical examiner has charge of a decedent who may provide a suitable cornea for the transplant or research;

(2) An autopsy will be required;

(3) No objection by the next of kin is known by the medical examiner;