



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 216**

*February Session, 2002*

**AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO AUTOPSY RECORDS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 19a-411 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

3 The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner shall keep full and  
4 complete records properly indexed, giving the name, if known, of  
5 every person whose death is investigated, the place where the body  
6 was found, the date, cause and manner of death and containing all  
7 other relevant information concerning the death and a copy of the  
8 death certificate. The full report and detailed findings of the autopsy  
9 and toxicological and other scientific investigation, if any, shall be a  
10 part of the record in each case. The office shall promptly notify the  
11 state's attorney having jurisdiction of such death and deliver to him  
12 copies of all pertinent records relating to every death in which further  
13 investigation may be advisable. Any state's attorney, chief of police or  
14 other law enforcement official may, upon request, secure copies of  
15 such records or other information deemed necessary by him to the  
16 performance of his official duties. The report of examinations  
17 conducted by the Chief Medical Examiner, Deputy Chief Medical  
18 Examiner, an associate medical examiner or an authorized assistant  
19 medical examiner, and of the autopsy and other scientific findings may  
20 be made available to the public only through the Office of the Chief  
21 Medical Examiner and in accordance with section 1-210, as amended,

22 and the regulations of the commission. Any person may obtain copies  
23 of such records upon such conditions and payment of such fees as may  
24 be prescribed by the commission, provided no person with a legitimate  
25 interest therein, including an executor, administrator or other legal  
26 representative of the estate of the decedent, shall be denied access to  
27 such records. Upon application by the Chief Medical Examiner or  
28 state's attorney to the superior court for the judicial district in which  
29 the death occurred, or to any judge of the superior court in such  
30 judicial district when said court is not then sitting, said court or such  
31 judge may limit such disclosure to the extent that there is a showing by  
32 the Chief Medical Examiner or state's attorney of compelling public  
33 interest against disclosure of any particular document or documents.  
34 Public authorities, professional, medical, legal or scientific bodies or  
35 universities or similar research bodies may, in the discretion of the  
36 commission, have access to all records upon such conditions and  
37 payment of such fees as may be prescribed by the commission. Where  
38 such information is made available for scientific or research purposes,  
39 such conditions shall include a requirement that the identity of the  
40 deceased persons shall remain confidential and shall not be published.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2002</i>

**PH**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*