



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6575

January Session, 2005

* HB06575AGEPH_031505 *

AN ACT CONCERNING INVESTIGATIONS OF DEATHS IN NURSING HOME FACILITIES BY THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 19a-406 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2005*):

4 (a) The Chief Medical Examiner shall investigate all human deaths
5 in the following categories: (1) Violent deaths, whether apparently
6 homicidal, suicidal or accidental, including but not limited to deaths
7 due to thermal, chemical, electrical or radiational injury and deaths
8 due to criminal abortion, whether apparently self-induced or not; (2)
9 sudden or unexpected deaths not caused by readily recognizable
10 disease; (3) deaths under suspicious circumstances; (4) deaths of
11 persons whose bodies are to be cremated, buried at sea or otherwise
12 disposed of so as to be thereafter unavailable for examination; (5)
13 deaths related to disease resulting from employment or to accident
14 while employed; (6) deaths related to disease which might constitute a
15 threat to public health; and (7) deaths of persons, admitted to nursing
16 home facilities, as defined in section 19a-521, that appear to have been
17 caused by abuse or neglect. The Chief Medical Examiner may require
18 autopsies in connection with deaths in the preceding categories when
19 it appears warranted for proper investigation and, in the opinion of the

20 Chief Medical Examiner, the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner, an
21 associate medical examiner or an authorized assistant medical
22 examiner, an autopsy is necessary. The autopsy shall be performed at
23 the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner or by a designated
24 pathologist at a community hospital. Where indicated, the autopsy
25 shall include toxicologic, histologic, microbiologic and serologic
26 examinations. If a medical examiner has reason to suspect that a
27 homicide has been committed, the autopsy shall be performed at the
28 Office of the Chief Medical Examiner or by a designated pathologist in
29 the presence of at least one other designated pathologist if such other
30 pathologist is immediately available. A detailed description of the
31 findings of all autopsies shall be written or dictated during their
32 progress. The findings of the investigation at the scene of death, the
33 autopsy and any toxicologic, histologic, serologic and microbiologic
34 examinations and the conclusions drawn therefrom shall be filed in the
35 Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

36 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 19a-407 of the general statutes is
37 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
38 *October 1, 2005*):

39 (a) All law enforcement officers, state's attorneys, prosecuting
40 attorneys, other officials, physicians, funeral directors, embalmers,
41 persons required to report or cause a report to be made pursuant to
42 section 17b-407 or 17b-451 and other persons shall promptly notify the
43 Office of the Chief Medical Examiner of any death coming to their
44 attention which is subject to investigation by the Chief Medical
45 Examiner under this chapter, shall assist in making dead bodies and
46 related evidence available to that office for investigations and
47 postmortem examinations, including autopsies, and shall cooperate
48 fully with said office in making the investigations and examinations
49 herein provided for. In conducting such investigations or
50 examinations, the Chief Medical Examiner may issue subpoenas
51 requiring the production of medical reports, records or other
52 documents concerning the death under investigation and compelling
53 the attendance and testimony of any person having pertinent

54 knowledge of such death.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2005</i>	19a-406(a)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2005</i>	19a-407(a)

AGE

Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

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