

NJ ADC 13:49-1.1
N.J.A.C. 13:49-1.1
N.J. Admin. Code tit. 13, § 49-1.1

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NEW JERSEY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
TITLE 13. LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
CHAPTER 49. STATE MEDICAL EXAMINER
SUBCHAPTER 1. AUTOPSIES
Current through May 16, 2005; 37 N.J. Reg. No. 10

13:49-1.1 Mandatory autopsies

(a) In the absence of an objection based on the religious beliefs of the decedent, autopsies shall be performed in all cases of human death occurring in the following circumstances; however, the autopsy should be the least intrusive procedure consistent with proper forensic practice (as defined in N.J.A.C. 13:49-1.3) and the duty to preserve organs for transplant:

1. All cases of apparent homicidal deaths;

2. All deaths occurring under suspicious or unusual circumstances;

3. All deaths from causes which might constitute a threat to public health;

4. All deaths of inmates of jail, prison, or penitentiary and all prisoners and suspects who were in the process of being detained, arrested or transported by guards, police and law enforcement or court officers unless the suspected cause of death is a known condition for which the inmate, prisoner or suspect is hospitalized and being treated at the time of death, and the medical examiner's investigation, review of hospital records, and examination of the decedent's body permit him or her to determine the cause of death beyond a reasonable doubt without an autopsy, and no other issues of public interest compel his or her conclusion that an autopsy is necessary;

5. All infants and children suspected of having been abused or neglected and children suspected of having died from sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS);

6. In all cases wherein the State Medical Examiner, the Attorney General, any assignment judge of the Superior Court, or the county prosecutor (of the county wherein the injury occurred or where the decedent expired) requests an autopsy;

7. In all cases otherwise under the Medical Examiner's jurisdiction where the decedent has been identified as a potential donor pursuant to P.L. 1969, c.161 (N.J.S.A. 26:6-57 et seq.), the medical examiner shall perform any necessary examination, autopsy or analysis of any organ or tissue in a manner and within a time period compatible with preservation of the organ or tissue for the purpose of transplantation.

(b) Upon notification that a deceased person whose death is under investigation is a donor under the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, P.L. 1969, c.161 (N.J.S.A. 26:6-57 et seq.), the medical examiner shall commence an immediate investigation concerning the cause of death. The medical examiner, with the cooperation of the police, prosecutors and medical personnel, shall complete the preliminary investigation concerning cause of death within a time period compatible with preservation of organs for transplantation.

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