PRIVATE AUTOPSY INSTRUCTIONS
UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI physicianS
COMPANY PATHOLOGY

Contact Persons: UC Pathology Department- 513.584.7284

Autopsies can be conducted through University of Cincinnati Physicians, Co. Department of Pathology for a fee. This program can provide postmortem examination and summary reports to individuals who request this service. The following are key points to remember when inquiring about consent forms for autopsy and other arrangements.

1. Call Pathology department to request appropriate forms for autopsy. Families may need to leave a message with contact name and phone number, so they can return the call if no one is readily available.

2. There must be a signed and fully completed Authorization for Autopsy form and Authorization for Release of Body form forwarded with the deceased at the time of the autopsy or forwarded in advance to pathology department. The Authorization for Autopsy form should be accurately completed and indicate whether the autopsy is “Brain only” (meaning we examine only the brain), “Autopsy without brain” (meaning we do not examine the brain but examine the rest of the body) or a “Full Autopsy” (meaning we examine the complete body including the brain). **No deceased person will be accepted without an accurately completed, signed and dated Authorization for Autopsy form, Authorization for Release of Body form.**

3. The family or other third party is responsible for the direct cost of the autopsy examination. Cashiers check or money order is to be made out to “University of Cincinnati, Physicians Co.” with “Pathology” in the memo line and is to accompany the authorization forms with the deceased.

4. Arrangements for transportation of the deceased to and from the U.C. Morgue must be made by the family, usually through a funeral home. The funeral home should call Morgue Attendant to indicate that the deceased will be arriving for autopsy, however, the hours of service are Monday-Friday 8:00AM to 5:00PM (excluding holidays).

5. The family **must provide** the name and contact number of a physician who is familiar with the history and medical findings of the affected person. **A written medical record is also required.** The final detailed autopsy report will be sent to the physician of record, and a summary letter explaining the findings will be sent to the family. The final report is usually completed within 60 business days; however that time frame may be dependent on the number of autopsies that have been performed in that period of time and the complexity of the case.

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