

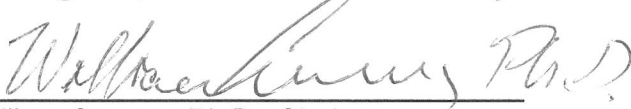
RESOLUTION

Whereas, by Act 79-454 the Jefferson County Commission has imbued the Coroner Medical-Examiners' Commission with the power to receive all questions concerning the operation of the Coroner Medical-Examiner's function and to render opinion or interpretation thereto as the Coroner Medical-Examiners' Commission may determine to be appropriate; and

Whereas, the Chief Medical Examiner has identified the need to implement a more comprehensive policy for the release and disposition of decedents and their remains;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the participating members of the Jefferson County Coroner Medical Examiner's Commission do agree and support the recommendation to adopt the new policy for the disposition of decedents and their remains.

Adopted by the Jefferson County Coroner/Medical Examiner Commission in Birmingham, Alabama on this 2nd day of November, Two Thousand and Twenty-Two.



William Counce, Ph.D., Chairperson,
Jefferson County Coroner/Medical Examiner Commission and
Alabama Board of Funeral Service Representative

Coroner Medical Examiner Commission Members:
Mark Wilson, M.D., Jefferson County Health Officer
Danny Carr, Jefferson County District Attorney
Gene Siegal, M.D., Jefferson County Medical Society Representative
David Proctor, Esquire, Birmingham Bar Association Representative
George J. Netto, M.D., UAB Medical Center Representative
Senator Linda Coleman, Jefferson County Legislative Delegation Representative
Representative Allen Treadaway, Jefferson County Legislative Delegation Rep.
Sgt. Kenneth Holmes, Jefferson County Law Enforcement Representative
Rachel Arrington, Alabama Board of Funeral Service Representative
Jay Glass, Citizen Representative appointed by Jefferson County Commission

The following procedures shall be followed when determining a person's right to make claim of a body.

1. Within the first 3 days of death, the body shall only be released to the known next of kin.
2. If after 3 days from death, the known next of kin is unavailable or fails or refuses to assert authority for control of the deceased, the authority will be deemed to be waived. The body shall be released to the person of highest kinship who has made claim by submission of a body release order.
3. The following kinship hierarchy shall be used when determining rights to make claim of a body:
 - 1) Spouse (husband, wife).
 - 2) Adult child (at least 18 years of age). Any one child may give the release order. If there is a dispute, the office will accept the order from the first child to give it.
 - 3) Grandchild. If there is a dispute, the office will accept the order from the first grandchild to give it.
 - 4) Parents. If there is a dispute, the office will accept the order from the first parent to give it.
 - 5) Siblings. If there is a dispute, the office will accept the order from the first sibling to give it.
 - 6) Grandparents. If there is a dispute, the office will accept the order from the first grandparent to give it.
 - 7) Guardian.
 - 8) Representative of the estate of the decedent.
 - 9) Other family in order of hierarchy (uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, cousin, etc.).
 - 10) Other persons willing to make claim (friend, neighbor, coworker, etc.)
 - 11) Governmental entity responsible for disposition of the remains (ex. indigent county burial, Department of Corrections, etc.).
4. The employee processing a body release order shall note the kinship of the individual making claim of the body and compare the kinship to the family listed for that decedent in the case management database.
5. If the individual making claim for the remains is of closer kinship than the family listed in the case management database, the employee shall contact the listed family and attempt to verify kinship of the person making claim.
 - 1) If the kinship of the person making claim is confirmed, the employee shall enter the person's information into the Next of Kin section of the case management database and process the order for release.
 - 2) If the employee is unable to verify the kinship of the individual making claim, the employee shall not release the body and shall notify their supervisor.