



THE
AUTOPSYTM
Doctor

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Understanding of Procedures and Policies

This is a reminder of what we discussed and overview of expectations for the autopsy on _____.
Please sign at the bottom for your understanding and return with your authorization. (NAME)

1. Under Florida law, physicians are generally required to carry medical malpractice insurance or otherwise demonstrate financial responsibility to cover potential claims for medical malpractice. However, certain part-time physicians who meet state requirements are exempt from the financial responsibility law. YOUR DOCTOR MEETS THESE REQUIREMENTS AND HAS DECIDED NOT TO CARRY MEDICAL MALPRACTICE INSURANCE. This notice is provided pursuant to Florida law.
2. Within short order (*usually* within a days time) you will receive a findings call from the doctor. This call is up to 30 minutes and will cover everything that they know at that point from the initial exam. Please have all parties available for that call as we have limited time. Then the doctor will discuss the next steps, what records might be pertinent for us to get and any other testing that they recommend. If you do not receive this call by the next day, please call or text us at 727-639-1897 and we will make sure it is set up.
3. A preliminary outline report will be emailed-usually within the week. If you do not receive this, please let us know.
4. Medical record review is limited to 2 hours of time which is usually sufficient for most cases. If excessive record review is needed, the doctor will discuss this and the extra time will be billed at \$800/hour. We *only* request pertinent records to assist the doctor in making their diagnosis. The records we get can be shared with you too.
5. After the preliminary phone call, you will **not** get updates from us along the way. Just know that we are moving forward and getting histology sent, ordering records and other testing. If you are curious about status of these other elements, please send an email or text to inquire. When your file is complete, you will receive the report at the email address provided on the authorization. If you do not get it within 6 months, please ask about status.
6. Timelines for written report vary from case to case. If records are necessary, the wait will be longer than a file that only needs histology added to the report. For the most part we go by "First in, first out". Our timeline could be 6 months or longer. Our caseload varies constantly so we can not give any accurate date of completion. Just know that we are working towards it and our Forensic Pathologists gauge themselves on quality and not quantity. Its about getting it right, not getting it done as fast as we can. Your patience is appreciated and rest assured that when your report is done it will be as complete and honest as possible.
7. After the final report you are entitled to another 30 minute follow-up call to answer questions. If more time is needed, that will be billable professional time. If prelim call was longer, this call will be shorter.
8. We are here to tell you what you "need to hear" and not always "what you want to hear". We will be honest and present the facts and interpret them as intellectually honest as possible.
9. If we find something concerning, it is our duty to report this to the Medical Examiner of jurisdiction immediately.
10. Those who we can speak to and share results with are: The authorizer, the payee(s) and who is listed on the line "May also speak to".
11. We only hold specimens for 2 years before discarding. Contact us if you want to pay for additional storage.

Signature of authorizer (I understand the above)

Print name

Date