

What is the age that a JP must order an Autopsy (Children) or under the age of?

There is a handy chart on this topic on page 24 of the Inquest Deskbook. If a child is under the age of 6 dies and it was unexpected or the result of abuse or neglect, an autopsy must be ordered.

Also, if a child under one dies of SIDS, an autopsy must be performed.

An autopsy also must be performed if a District Attorney (*in the JP's county or another county where a criminal investigation is taking place*) orders one to be done as part of a criminal organization.

Can you include some sample wording for COPD deaths on death certificates?

Complications related to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Complications of emphysema

How soon do you want the Decedent's body at your facility for an autopsy?

In a perfect world - getting the body to the medical examiner's office as soon as possible, because they will have the means to refrigerate thus keeping the body from decomposing.

However, some counties are far away and cannot get a driver immediately, so in that case it is best to have the body refrigerated locally until the body can be transported.

Generally speaking, a day or two does not appreciably change the condition of the body for autopsy as long as the deceased is refrigerated.

If a JP doesn't send the Decedent for an autopsy, and based on medical history, can a JP give cause of death as one of the terms you used for heart attack, can an insurance dispute it and demand an autopsy in order to pay out?

A family could pay for a private autopsy requested by them or the deceased's physician and may choose to do so for insurance purposes if they believe for some reason that the cause of death you listed on the death certificate was incorrect. We discuss private autopsies and how a JP may become involved in them on pages 27-28 in the newly updated *Inquests Deskbook (2nd edition)*.