

MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution 9-14

INTRODUCED BY: Baltimore City Medical Society

SUBJECT: Autopsy Reports – Restricting Access

1 Whereas, with limited exceptions, access to medical or psychological information concerning an individual is
2 prohibited under Maryland law; and
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4 Whereas, access to an autopsy report from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner is not prohibited under
5 Maryland law; and
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7 Whereas, an individual or private institution may receive a copy of an individual autopsy report by paying a fee of
8 \$30 (for family members) and \$120 (for private institutions) to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner; and
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10 Whereas, access to a death certificate is limited to (1) the surviving relative of the deceased; (2) an authorized
11 representative of a surviving relative of the deceased; (3) a funeral director who was in charge of the final
12 disposition of the body of the deceased; (4) an individual who has a proven legal need; and (5) a court of law; now,
13 therefore be it
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15 Resolved, that MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society support legislation to restrict inspection and/or release
16 of an autopsy report or related documents to: (1) a governmental agency whose lawful duties are related thereto; (2)
17 the health care provider when the request is for legitimate purposes; (3) the decedent's next of kin; or (4) an official
18 authorized by law or regulation to review the report.
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21 As adopted by the House of Delegates at its meeting on September 27, 2014.