MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution 9-14

INTRODUCED BY: Baltimore City Medical Society

SUBJECT: Autopsy Reports – Restricting Access

Whereas, with limited exceptions, access to medical or psychological information concerning an individual is prohibited under Maryland law; and

Whereas, access to an autopsy report from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner is not prohibited under Maryland law; and

Whereas, an individual or private institution may receive a copy of an individual autopsy report by paying a fee of $30 (for family members) and $120 (for private institutions) to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner; and

Whereas, access to a death certificate is limited to (1) the surviving relative of the deceased; (2) an authorized representative of a surviving relative of the deceased; (3) a funeral director who was in charge of the final disposition of the body of the deceased; (4) an individual who has a proven legal need; and (5) a court of law; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society support legislation to restrict inspection and/or release of an autopsy report or related documents to: (1) a governmental agency whose lawful duties are related thereto; (2) the health care provider when the request is for legitimate purposes; (3) the decedent’s next of kin; or (4) an official authorized by law or regulation to review the report.

As adopted by the House of Delegates at its meeting on September 27, 2014.