

Supplementary: Determine which laws apply

Consenting Guidelines

Depending on the time of consent (before or after death), and what procedure is being performed (medical autopsy and/or tissue collection), consenting guidelines vary from state to state. We have summarized these guidelines in **Supplementary Table 1**.

Uniform Anatomical Gifts Act

The first Uniform Anatomical Gifts Act was created in 1967 to address the donation of organs, tissues, and eyes. All states adopted this original version. In 1987, the act was revised to include a uniform manner of obtaining consent from individual donors, banned the purchase and sale of body parts, and prioritized the individuals wishes to donate over the family or next-of-kin's (NOK) wishes. Most recently, the UAGA was revised again in 2006 with the primary goals of accommodating advancements in medicine and science, simplify the consenting process, and to promote consistency of guidelines among the states. Each state has the authority to use the UAGA as is, or as a template to modify as fits their needs. As such, many states have enacted modified versions of the UAGA, referred to in **Supplementary Table 1** as "Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act" (RUAGA).

Transporting a Decedent

Transportation in the death industry is regulated by state and often, specific regulations are vague and convoluted. Some states have clearly worded regulations and require specific documentation, licensing, and permits to transport a decedent. Other states, however, allow family to transport a decedent themselves, without a licensed funeral home. It is important to keep in mind the distinction between transportation from the place of death to autopsy location, versus, transportation to a funeral home for the purposes of "final disposition". Most states specifically outline requirements for final disposition but do not address other transportation

situations. This gap in regulatory oversight can make it challenging to understand what is legally required in the context of a rapid autopsy program. We have compiled a summary of requirements by state to help guide the reader (**Supplementary Table 1**). Please note that this information is for general information only and the reader is responsible to verify all legal requirements. References should be made to the state code for complete information.

Personnel Requirements for Autopsies and Tissue Collections

The CDC serves as a good resource for understanding the regulations required by each state for personnel performing a medical autopsy; Tissue collections, however, are not specifically addressed. We have summarized personnel requirements in **Supplementary Table 1**. Tissue collection procedures appear to be largely unregulated in most states. However, Specific hospitals and local jurisdictions may operate under their own set of guidelines that are not necessarily regulated at the state level. The reader is responsible to do due diligence to determine what oversight might apply to their rapid autopsy program.

Next of Kin

Next of kin (NOK) rankings can vary from state to state. Typically ranking is: DPOA, spouse, children, grandchildren, parents, siblings, nieces/nephews, grandparents, aunts/uncles, cousins. In cases with multiple NOKs (i.e., three children), majority opinion is allowed but a unanimous decision is preferred. NOK rankings should be verified by state and local jurisdiction.