

SECTION 27 – ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION AND RECOVERY

I. ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION AND RECOVERY-GENERAL

The Shelby County Coroner recognizes the benefit to the citizens of Shelby County and beyond related to anatomical donations. The Shelby County Coroner shall make every effort to recognize potential donors, coordinate with families, donor agencies and, when required, the forensic pathologist, to insure maximum benefit of a potential donor.

II. STATUTORY IMPERATIVE

The following is an excerpt from the Alabama Statute entitled the statute entitled ALABAMA UNIFORM ANATOMICAL GIFT ACT.

Ala Code. § 22-19-54. Authorization by Coroner, Medical Examiner

(a) The coroner or medical examiner may release and permit the removal of a part from a body within that official's custody, for transplantation or therapy, if each of the following requirements are met:

(1) The official has received a request for the part from a hospital, physician, surgeon, or procurement organization.

(2) The official has made a reasonable effort, taking into account the useful life of the part, to locate and examine the decedent's medical records and inform persons listed in subsection (a) of Section 22-19-53 of their option to make, or object to making, an anatomical gift.

(3) The official does not know of a refusal or contrary indication by the decedent or objection by a person having priority to act as listed in subsection (a) of Section 22-19-53.

(4) The removal will be by a physician, surgeon, surgeon's assistant, or certified procurement transplant coordinator certified by the American Board of Transplant Coordinators; but in the case of eyes, by a technician certified by the Alabama Eye Bank after completing training according to the medical standards of the Eye Bank Association of America.

(5) The removal will not interfere with any autopsy or investigation.

(6) The removal will be in accordance with accepted medical standards.

(7) Cosmetic restoration will be done, if appropriate

(b) If the body is not within the custody of the coroner or medical examiner, the local public health officer

may release and permit the removal of any part from a body in the local public health officer's custody for transplantation or therapy if the requirements of subsection (a) are met. (

c) An official releasing and permitting the removal of a part shall maintain a permanent record of the name of the decedent, the person making the request, the date and purpose of the request, the part requested, and the person to whom it was released.

III. IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL DONORS

Potential donors are usually discovered by the C/DC during a scene investigation by viewing the decedent's driver's license. Alabama Driver's Licenses use a symbol of a red heart indicating the holder of that license has an entry on the donor registration. When that designation is known to the C/DC the C/DC can call LOH to refer the case