

Charleston County Coroner's Office Policy #12

Title: Custodial Deaths in Charleston County

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Authorized By: Bobbi Jo O'Neal, Coroner

12.1 POLICY

The Charleston County Coroner's Office is responsible for investigating any deaths occurring in any detention facility located within Charleston County. Cooperation between the Charleston County Coroner's Office and the custodial agency is necessary for a proper investigation.

12.2 PROCEDURE

1. All deaths that occur in the Al Cannon Detention Center or other law enforcement holding facilities will be investigated by this Office and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED). The scene will be secured for evidentiary purposes until released by the Coroner or case deputy. If a detained subject was transported to a medical treatment facility prior to death, the Deputy will respond to the detention facility in addition to the location of the body.

2. All decedents will be autopsied unless otherwise indicated by the Coroner. The Charleston County Coroner's Office contracted transport service will transport. In addition to other on-scene actions of the Deputy as outlined in policies such as "Death Scene Investigation Policy", "Decedent Identification", etc., Deputies shall request a copy of the deceased inmate's records to include: arrest and booking form, medical, phone, visitors log and anything else that could prove crucial to the investigation. Generally, physical evidence found relating to a death that may be criminal in nature should be collected by SLED.