



Advanced Decomposition Policy

Policy# 15-0417-1 Advanced Decomposition Policy Total Pages=1

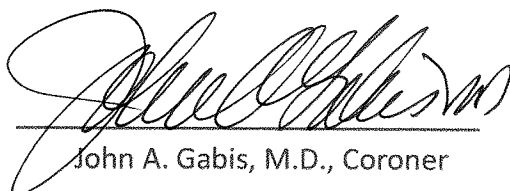
Purpose: The have written guidelines on deaths involving a body that is in advanced decomposition.

Justification: Deaths involving advanced decomposition can offer challenges in determining cause and manner of death, time of death and positive identification.

Policy:

1. Advanced decomposition refers to the stage of death after rigor mortis subsides and bloating, skin slippage and other stages of decomposition develops, up to mummification or skeletonization.
2. All deaths reported as or described as in advanced decomposition, the investigator will respond to the scene for a complete external examination.
3. The scene will be investigated as per Policy# 14-0703-2 Scene Investigation Policy.
4. A forensic autopsy will be requested if needed to rule out trauma and/or to assist in making positive identification.
5. The body will only be released on a sufficient presumptive identification once all samples/specimens/evidence are secured to confirm positive identification through a scientific method.

This policy has been approved and is effect until further notice:


John A. Gabis, M.D., Coroner

April 17, 2015
Date