



## **Deaths in Custody Policy**

**Policy#** 12-0727-1 Deaths in Custody Policy **Total pages=** 1


**Purpose:** To ensure that all deaths that occur while in the custody of law enforcement and/or the department of corrections are investigated to the fullness of our ability.

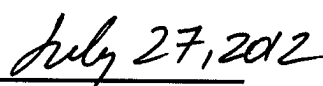
**Justification:** Deaths while in custody of law enforcement and/or while confined in the prison system tend to involve questions and concerns by family members and the general public. It is our responsibility to the deceased and all concerned to be able to address these questions and concerns. This policy is based on past practice of the Ross County Coroner's Office, as well as researching policies from various coroner/medical examiner's offices throughout the US and Canada.

### **Policy:**

1. All deaths that are reportable to this office involving individuals that die while in custody of law enforcement or while under incarceration in the penal system will undergo an autopsy examination and toxicology that is appropriate for the circumstances surrounding the death being investigated.
2. Any objections to an autopsy examination by family for religious or other reasons will be considered and a decision will be made by the coroner after consulting the law enforcement investigator responsible for investigating the death and based on circumstances surrounding the death as well as all legal considerations.

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

  
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John A. Gabis, M.D., Coroner

  
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Date