

WHY DO IT?

- An autopsy will provide detailed information to the Maternal Mortality Review Committee about what caused a maternal death.
- Even if the cause of death seems clear, the woman may have had medical problems that were not known during life, and those things are important to know to help prevent future deaths.
- This information can be important for the health of other family members in the future.
- It can also help loved ones find closure about the cause of death.

There is NO cost for the maternal autopsy and transport. Autopsy costs are paid for with public funds.



**ALABAMA
MMR**
MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW



**Maternal Autopsy
Program Contact**
ADPH 334-832-0216

MATERNAL AUTOPSY PROGRAM (MAP)

- The Alabama Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC) reviews maternal deaths to improve future birth outcomes within the state.
- The MMRC has funds to perform autopsies on pregnant women and/or women who have died within one year of giving birth.



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The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) and The Maternal Mortality Review Committee are aware that the success of the autopsy program will rely heavily on partners within healthcare facilities and those serving our communities as first responders. Your role in assisting us with having the autopsies performed is crucial, and we sincerely appreciate your help. Please use this pamphlet to guide you through the process of obtaining an autopsy for a maternal death.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR MATERNAL AUTOPSY

- Pregnancy at the time of death
- Death within one year of delivery
- Death within one year of miscarriage or abortion
- Alabama resident
- Does not meet criteria for autopsy to be performed by State Forensics

WHAT TO DO WHEN A MATERNAL DEATH OCCURS INSIDE A HOSPITAL OR HEALTHCARE FACILITY

- Hospital staff will contact ADPH to obtain approval of autopsy (334-832-0216)
- ADPH will contact facility where the autopsy will be performed
- Pathologist will contact the next of kin to obtain consent for autopsy
- ADPH staff will coordinate with the hospital staff to make the arrangement for transport
- Hospital staff will call transport company provider to arrange pickup of the deceased
- Transport company provider will transport deceased to facility for autopsy to be performed
- Feel free to contact ADPH staff at the number listed above for any questions

WHAT TO DO WHEN A MATERNAL DEATH OCCURS OUTSIDE A HOSPITAL OR HEALTHCARE FACILITY

- First Responder or Coroner will contact ADPH to obtain approval of autopsy (334-832-0216) At this time, the location and time of pickup will be discussed
- ADPH will contact facility where the autopsy will be performed
- Pathologist will contact the next of kin to obtain consent for autopsy
- ADPH will coordinate with the pick up location to make arrangement for transport
- Pickup location will communicate with the transport company provider to arrange pickup of the deceased
- Transport company provider will pick up the deceased and transport to facility for autopsy to be performed
- Feel free to contact ADPH staff at the number listed above for any questions