

CHAPTER 390

CORONER; MORGUE; INVESTIGATION OF DEATH

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390.05 DEPUTIES.

A coroner shall appoint one or more deputies. When the coroner is absent or unable to act, deputies have the same powers and are subject to the same liabilities as coroners. A deputy shall be appointed in writing. The oath and appointment shall be filed for record with the county recorder. The deputy shall act by name as deputy coroner and hold office at the same time as the coroner.

History: 1991 c 326 s 21

390.06 PUBLIC MORGUE.

In every county with a population of 100,000 or over, the board shall provide and equip a public morgue. The morgue's purpose is to receive and dispose of all dead bodies which are by law subject to a post mortem or coroner's inquest, without charge to anyone.

History: 1991 c 31 s 1

390.07 MORGUE MAINTENANCE.

The morgue must be under the control of the county board. It must be equipped with the best modern approved appliances to handle and dispose of dead bodies. It must not be connected in any manner with any undertaking establishment. No person shall be employed in the morgue who is in any manner connected with or interested in the undertaking business.

History: 1991 c 31 s 2

390.11 INVESTIGATIONS AND INQUESTS.

[For text of subs 1 to 6, see M.S.1990]

Subd. 7. Reports. (a) Deaths of the types described in this section must be promptly reported for investigation to the coroner by the law enforcement officer, attending physician, mortician, person in charge of the public institutions referred to in subdivision 1, or other person with knowledge of the death.

(b) For the purposes of this section, health-related records or data on a decedent, except health data defined in section 13.38, whose death is being investigated under this section, whether the records or data are recorded or unrecorded, including but not limited to those concerning medical, surgical, psychiatric, psychological, or any other consultation, diagnosis, or treatment, including medical imaging, shall be made promptly available to the coroner, upon the coroner's written request, by a person having custody of, possession of, access to, or knowledge of the records or data. The coroner shall pay the reasonable costs of copies of records or data provided to the coroner under this section. Data collected or created pursuant to this subdivision relating to any psychiatric, psychological, or mental health consultation with, diagnosis of, or treatment of the decedent whose death is being investigated shall remain confidential or protected non-public data, except that the coroner's report may contain a summary of such data.

[For text of subs 8 to 12, see M.S.1990]

History: 1991 c 319 s 19

390.32 AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT PROCEEDINGS.

[For text of subs 1 to 5, see M.S.1990]

Subd. 6. Report of deaths. (a) Deaths of the types described in this section must be promptly reported for investigation to the sheriff by the attending physician, mortician, person in charge of the public institutions referred to in subdivision 1, or other person having knowledge of the death.

(b) For the purposes of this section, health-related records or data on a decedent, except health data as defined in section 13.38, whose death is being investigated under this section, whether the records or data are recorded or unrecorded, including but not limited to those concerning medical, surgical, psychiatric, psychological, or any other consultation, diagnosis, or treatment, including medical imaging, shall be made promptly available to the medical examiner, upon the medical examiner's written request, by a person having custody of, possession of, access to, or knowledge of the records or data. The medical examiner shall pay the reasonable costs of copies of records or data provided to the medical examiner under this section. Data collected or created pursuant to this subdivision relating to any psychiatric, psychological, or mental health consultation with, diagnosis of, or treatment of the decedent whose death is being investigated shall remain confidential or protected nonpublic data, except that the medical examiner's report may contain a summary of such data.

[For text of subs 7 to 10, see M.S.1990]

History: 1991 c 319 s 20

390.36 CORONER REMOVAL OF PITUITARY GLAND DURING AUTOPSY.

A county coroner who performs an autopsy under section 390.11, 390.32, or any other general or local law relating to county coroners or medical examiners, may remove the pituitary gland from the body and give it to the national pituitary agency, or any other agency or organization, for research if the following conditions have been met:

(a) the removal would not alter a gift made under sections 525.921 to 525.9224;

(b) the coroner or medical examiner has no knowledge of any objection to the removal by the decedent or other person having the right to control the disposition of the body; and

(c) the coroner or medical examiner has followed generally accepted ethical guidelines and the removal would not violate the tenets of the deceased's religion.

History: 1991 c 202 s 17