

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM AN AUTOPSY

Due to the nature of your loved one's death, it may be necessary for a medical exam and/or autopsy to be performed to determine the cause and manner of death. The autopsy will be completed by a Medical Examiner at a Regional Forensic Center.

- The Medical Examiner may take several days to complete the autopsy.
- You will need to contact the funeral home of your choice.
- The funeral home will call the Medical Examiner's Office directly to arrange transportation of your loved one to the funeral home.
- The funeral home will make an appointment with you to come into their office to make the funeral arrangements.
- Personal belongings will be taken to the funeral home with your loved one unless the property is a part of a criminal investigation.
- Viewing of your loved one takes place at the funeral home.
- It should be noted that you are not required to use a funeral home should you wish to handle arrangements on your own.

DEATH CERTIFICATES

- A death certificate will be provided from the chosen funeral home.
- Death certificates must be filed with the Vital Records Division of the Health Department.
- Certified copies of death certificates are also distributed through Vital Records (for a fee), not the Medical Examiner's Office.
- You will need several copies of the death certificate for social security, insurance, bank or other matters where proof of death is needed.

Records can be requested at:

Tennessee Office of Vital Records at (615) 741-1763 or at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/vital-records.html>.

AUTOPSY REPORTS

Final autopsy reports can take between **90 – 180 days** to be completed.

Records can be requested at:

The Office of the State Chief Medical Examiner
Phone: 1-844-860-4511

Website: <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/oscme.html>.

REGIONAL FORENSIC CENTERS

West Tennessee Regional Forensic Center
University of Tennessee Health Science
Center

637 Poplar Avenue
Memphis, TN 38105
Phone: (901) 222-4600

Middle Tennessee Regional Forensic Center
Forensic Medical Management Services

850 R.S. Gass Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37216
Phone: (615) 743-1800

**Southeast Tennessee Regional Forensic
Center**

Hamilton County Forensic Center
3202 Amnicola Highway
Chattanooga, TN 37406
Phone: (423) 493-5175

East Tennessee Regional Forensic Center
Regional Forensic Center

2761 Sullins Street
Knoxville, TN 37919
Phone: (865) 215-8000

Northeast Regional Forensic Center
William J. Jenkins Forensic Center

P.O. Box 70425
Johnson City, TN 37614-1704
Phone: (423) 439-8038