

- Policy:** The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) is assured adequate supporting services, equipment and facilities to perform autopsy examinations pursuant to DC Code § 5-1403 and 1409.
- Purpose:** To ensure proper post-mortem examination procedures in accordance with the mission of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.
- Scope:** The following procedures are to assist Medical Examiner physicians to perform proper post-mortem examinations in a safe and secure environment.

1. HISTOLOGY

- 1.1. Histology services are performed in-house.
- 1.2. Histologic examination is guided by the medical examiner's discretion
- 1.3. Histologic specimens must be obtained for every internal postmortem examination performed, unless precluded by condition or absence of the organ.
 - 1.3.1. Tissue will be placed in cassette at the time of the autopsy by the medical examiner
 - 1.3.1.1. Cassette will be labeled with case number and "A" followed by sequential numbers (non brain tissue) and "B" (brain tissue) followed by sequential numbers
- 1.4. Standard tissue sections include heart, lungs, liver, kidney and brain (hippocampus and/or frontal).
 - 1.4.1. Additional sections may be submitted when deemed necessary by the medical examiner
- 1.5. All cases do not require the preparation of slide preparation
 - 1.5.1. Those cases that do not require slide preparation can be indicated on the requisition form as "**embedded only**"
- 1.6. Cases which require H & E glass slide preparation include:
 - 1.6.1. Infant and children deaths
 - 1.6.1.1. Cases of suspected SUID should have extensive histologic sampling from all organs
 - 1.6.1.2. In case of child abuse, the documentation of injuries by histology is highly recommended

- 1.6.2. Cases in which no cause of death is determined during the gross examination
- 1.6.3. Cases in which tissue diagnosis is necessary

- 1.7. Specialized stains of tissue sections may be obtained by the medical examiner when necessary to further document microscopic findings, including microorganisms, iron, fat, and connective tissue.
 - 1.7.1. Appropriate control slides must be returned with special stains.

- 1.8. The medical examiner must review all glass slides generated for a case and include a description of the microscopic findings in the Autopsy Report.
 - 1.8.1. The medical examiner must list the sections and corresponding blocks in the Autopsy Report

- 1.9. When the medical examiner deems other sections necessary, additional numbered cassettes are prepared.
 - 1.9.1. The medical examiner will document the anatomic site from which the additional tissue was obtained and list on the Autopsy Report.