

Significant Exposure

Guidelines for Police agencies



An outside agency may request a blood sample from a deceased person, in Accordance to F.S. 381.004(3)14, (h) 10.12. <<significant exposure assistance...>> (Appendix D).

To assist each agency in the event of an exposure, the Medical Examiner's Office has the following procedure in place:

- 1) The Departments Risk Management Office should be notified immediately, or as soon as possible after an exposure.
- 2) Please notify the Forensic Supervisor at the Medical Examiner's Office by telephone, as Soon as possible, after the exposure.
- 3) A letter containing the following information must be submitted to the Medical Examiner's Office.
 - a) The date of the exposure
 - b) The name of the deceased
 - c) The agency case number
 - d) The Medical Examiner case number
 - e) The name, address and telephone number of the laboratory the agency has selected to conduct the testing.
- 4) This letter is to be faxed to the attention of the Forensic Supervisor at the Medical Examiner's Office at 561-688-4592.
- 5) Once the Medical Examiner's Office has received this letter, we will notify the selected laboratory to pick up the requested sample.

Officers should be advised to report the exposure immediately after the occurrence. A delay in notification to this office could mean the proper sample not being taken during autopsy and the body being released to a Funeral Home without sample being taken.