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**NEVADA COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**



**CORONER'S DIRECTIVE  
32  
Effective Date 05/30/99**

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**SUBJECT**                                    **DEPUTIES' DUTIES FOR TRANSPORTATION OF BODIES**

**POLICY**                                    To establish a protocol for deputies to follow on coroner cases

**PURPOSE**                                To familiarize the deputy coroner with duties to be performed in conjunction with local funeral homes

**CODE REFERENCE**

**CASE LAW**

**DEFINITIONS**

**PROCEDURE**

- A.    Transportation to Mortuary
  - 1.    After the deputy coroner has completed his/her preliminary investigation of the death and determined that this, in fact, will be a coroner's case, he/she will call the mortuary on call for that month to do the removal. The deputy will remain with the deceased until the mortuary has arrived and completed the removal.
  
- B.    Viewing at the Mortuary
  - 1.    The following procedure is to be used in all cases except homicides and severely decomposed bodies.
  - 2.    Once the body is at the mortuary, the mortuary worker will undress the decedent and place the clothing in a bag.
  - 3.    The deputy coroner will view the nude remains with the assistance of the mortuary attendant.
  - 4.    The deputy will check external body temperature, post mortem lividity, and rigor mortis.
  - 5.    All injuries and trauma will be noted.
  - 6.    All signs of therapeutic intervention (tubes, monitor patches, intravenous setups, et cetera) will be noted.

7. All scars, marks, and tattoos will be noted.

C. Additional Important Duties

1. If there is any indication of possible infectious/contagious disease, i.e., AIDS, hepatitis, tuberculosis, et cetera (either by lifestyle or medical history), it must be noted on the face page of the Coroner's Report as well as in the narrative.
2. If the case is determined to be a homicide, the body is to be left fully clothed at the mortuary.
3. If death is by gunfire, stabbing, or unknown means, the body shall be x-rayed prior to the autopsy. All child deaths will be x-rayed unless they are by motor vehicle accident or witnessed by a third party, as in a drowning, to eliminate the possibility of foul play.