

**Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 7, 2003**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1320
(Representatives Koppelman, Boehning, DeKrey)
(Senators Bercier, Nelson, Traynor)

AN ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 44-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the privacy of autopsy photographs, images, and recordings.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 44-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Autopsy images - Confidential - Exceptions.

1. An autopsy photograph or other visual image or a video or audio recording of an autopsy is confidential. However, a criminal justice agency may use or disclose these materials for purposes of an investigation or prosecution.
2. a. After redacting all information identifying the decedent, including name, address, and social security number, and anonymizing facial recognition, a medical examiner, coroner, or physician may use an autopsy photograph, image, or recording for:
 - (1) Medical or scientific teaching or training purposes;
 - (2) Teaching or training of law enforcement personnel;
 - (3) Teaching or training of attorneys or others with a bona fide professional need to use or understand forensic science;
 - (4) Conferring with medical or scientific experts; or
 - (5) Publication in a scientific or medical journal or textbook.
- b. A medical examiner, coroner, or physician who has in good faith complied with this subsection is not subject to any penalty or liability for using an autopsy photograph, image, or recording.
3. The decedent's spouse, child, parent, or sibling, upon proof of the relationship, may view an autopsy photograph, image, or recording in the business office of a medical examiner, coroner, or physician who has possession of the materials, if there is not an active criminal investigation or prosecution.
4. Disclosure of an autopsy photograph, image, or recording may be obtained under section 44-04-18.11.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1320.

House Vote: Yeas 88 Nays 0 Absent 6

Senate Vote: Yeas 44 Nays 0 Absent 3

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2003.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2003.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2003,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State