



## Alabama Coroner's Association

*Collaboration · Education · Accreditation*

**Dedicated to the promotion of excellence in medicolegal death investigation through collaboration, education and accreditation.**

### **ACA POSITION STATEMENT**

#### **CORONERS SHOULD USE NUMBERED SEAL THROUGHOUT ALL ASPECTS OF DECEDENT TRANSPORT**

Coroners have jurisdiction over the body and property of the deceased. The body and property should be secure at all times. A chain of custody should be maintained.

The decedent should be placed into a body bag. A tag with decedent's name should be placed inside the body bag, on the decedent, and secured at wrist, ankle or foot.

The bag should be zippered shut. Both zippers should end at the feet of the decedent. An additional tag with the identification of the decedent should be looped through the zipper rings.

**A numbered security seal should be placed within both zipper rings, securing the bag shut. This seal should be placed and number recorded before the decedent leaves the scene.**

**The numbered seal should be checked at DFS to ensure that chain of custody has been maintained.**

**Before leaving DFS, a numbered seal should be placed within both zipper rings, securing the bag shut. The number should be recorded to ensure the chain of custody of the decedent and property.**

Decedent's last name and county of origination should be written on the outside of the body bag when sending for autopsy.

The official position of the Alabama Coroner's Association is that all Coroners and Medicolegal Death Investigators secure body bags with a numbered seal during all aspects of decedent transport.

Respectfully,

The ACA Board of Directors