



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 OBTAIN ANTEMORTEM BLOOD/URINE FOR ANALYSIS IN CASES IDENTIFIED FOR AUTOPSY

- For deaths which have occurred in a hospital; the hospital laboratory should be contacted as soon as possible to see if any antemortem specimens of urine, blood, serum, or plasma are available. These specimens should be sent to DFS for analysis.
- Hospital labs usually keep samples for 48-72 hrs post collection. It is VERY IMPORTANT to notify the laboratory to hold the samples for pickup by the Coroner.
- Unless advised to the contrary, Coroners should collect the earliest hospital specimens available (admission samples). They are the most significant.
- Please note that antemortem blood specimens collected from hospital laboratories may lack the original rubber stoppers. Please secure in the best manner with sample in a separate zip lock type bag.

The official position of the Alabama Coroner's Association is that all Coroners obtain from the hospital lab; blood, urine, serum, or plasma samples in cases identified for autopsy.

Respectfully,

The ACA Board of Directors