

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**SUBJECT:** AUTHORITY FOR AUTOPSY**POLICY NO.** 316.1

PURPOSE:: To establish the Department's policy for hospitals when autopsy is requested and performed.

POLICY:: Autopsy shall be performed only upon request of those authorized under State Law.

An autopsy may only be performed by a physician after obtaining proper authorization.

GUIDE:: Authorization may be obtained as follows:

1. By Will or written instrument of the deceased.
2. By written statement of the person designated as having the right to control disposition of the remains of the deceased, such as surviving spouse, child, or other next of kin.
3. Authorization from the Coroner or other duly authorized officer.
4. By authorization of the State Department of Health acting as Curator of the Unclaimed Dead.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Nov 24, 1975

SUPERCEDES:

APPROVED: Signature on File
