

**AUTHORIZATION FOR AUTOPSY**

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security #: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_

Time of Death: \_\_\_\_\_

**Medical and Forensic Autopsy Section**  
Office: (843) 792-3500 Fax: (843) 792-3537  
165 Ashley Avenue  
Suite 309, PO Box 250908  
Charleston, SC 29425

I request and authorize the physician(s) in attendance at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, SC *to perform a complete autopsy including the central nervous system* on the remains of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient's Name

and I authorize the removal and retention of use for diagnostic, scientific or therapeutic purposes of such organs, tissue and parts as such physician(s) deem proper. This permission is granted for a complete autopsy EXCEPT FOR THE FOLLOWING RESTRICTIONS:

Restrictions:  Abdomen only  Chest only  Chest and abdomen only  Brain only

Biopsy(s) of the following organs: \_\_\_\_\_

Other instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

**A copy of the autopsy report will be sent to the next of kin.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Person Giving Authorization

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to Patient

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address of Person Giving Authorization

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness (Signature and Printed Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Signature

**OPTIONAL** (Please check and initial to authorize): I further authorize release of a copy of the autopsy report to be sent to the referring hospital of the decedent. \_\_\_\_\_

Coroner's Jurisdiction:  Yes  No

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Funeral Home

Coroner's Office Notified:  Yes  No

\_\_\_\_\_  
Funeral Home Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address of Funeral Home (if known)

The State of South Carolina recognizes the following order of legal authority when requesting authorization for autopsy from next of kin of decedent:

- a. Spouse
- b. Children (age 18 or over)
- c. Grandchildren (age 18 or over)
- d. Great grandchildren (age 18 or over)
- e. Father and/or Mother
- f. Brothers and sisters (age 18 or over)
- g. Nieces and nephews
- h. Grand nieces and nephews
- i. Maternal and paternal grandparents
- j. Uncles and Aunts and their descendants
- k. Great-grandfathers and great-grandmothers
- l. Brothers and sisters of great-grandfathers and great-grandmothers
- m. Legal Guardian or the person who assumes responsibility to dispose of the body (person giving authorization)