

Position Statement Opposed to Autopsy Observation as a Form of Punishment March 9, 2001

The National Association of Medical Examiners is opposed to using the observation of an autopsy (while it is performed) as a form of punishment, sentencing, or other disciplinary action related to the adjudication of court cases or other legal or administrative procedures. There is no scientific evidence that such uses are effective and without risk; autopsy performance poses biohazard risks; the dignity of the deceased needs to be protected; confidentiality issues are involved; and the autopsy is a professional and educational medical procedure.