

TITLE 13
CHAPTER 36 CORONERS
PART I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

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§5701 Election; term of office; bond

A. In each parish, there shall be a coroner. Except for the parish of Orleans, he shall be elected at the gubernatorial election, shall serve for a term of four years, and shall take office and begin his term on the fourth Monday in March following election. He shall give bond and security according to law in the sum of two thousand dollars for the due performance of the duties of his office.

B. There shall be one coroner for the parish of Orleans who shall be elected at the election for parochial and municipal officers in Orleans Parish, shall serve for a term of four years, and shall take office on the first Monday in May following election. He shall give bond and security according to law in the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars for the due performance of the duties of his office.

Amended by Acts 1980, No. 541, §2, eff. July 23, 1980; Acts 1981, No. 122, §3. Acts 1984, No. 570, §1; Redesignated from R.S. 33:1551 pursuant to Acts 2011, No. 248, §3.

§5704. Qualifications

A. The coroner shall be a physician licensed by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana. This requirement shall be waived in any parish in which no licensed physician qualifies to run for the office.

B. The coroner shall be a resident of the parish. However, a licensed physician who is not a resident of the parish but who maintains a full-time medical practice at a principal medical office facility in the parish may qualify for and hold the office.

Acts 1984, No. 570, §1; Acts 1999, No. 636, §1, eff. Sept. 1, 1999; Redesignated from R.S. 33:1554 pursuant to Acts 2011, No. 248, §3.

NOTE: Acts 1999, No. 636, §2 provides that the Act (which added Subsection B) "shall apply to all elections for the office of coroner held on or after the effective date."

§5706. Fees for coroner's services

A.(1) The coroner shall receive:

(a) For every investigation, including issuing necessary papers and reports, fifty dollars.

(b) For viewing bodies, fifty dollars.

(c) For the performance of an autopsy, a fee of not less than two hundred fifty dollars nor more than three hundred dollars, at the discretion of the governing authority of the parish or municipality, and the cost of any laboratory tests actually incurred.

(d) For attendance or testimony in any case in court in matters arising from his official duties, seventy-five dollars per day per case.

(e) A fee of fifty dollars for papers issued in each interdiction case or commitment of mental or incompetent case.

(2) The attending or assisting physicians in interdiction or commitment cases shall also receive a fee of fifty dollars.

(3) The coroner shall receive a reasonable fee or compensation, as agreed to by the coroner and the governing authority of the parish or municipality, for any physical or mental examination or investigation when requested by the district attorney, any judge, sheriff, chief of police, or by any responsible citizen or resident when acting in good faith in an emergency and in the furtherance of the public good and safety.

(4) These amounts shall be in addition to any necessary expenses that may be incurred.

(5) The provisions of this Subsection shall only apply to coroners on a fee basis.

(6) Notwithstanding any provision of this Section to the contrary, the affirmative approval of the governing authority of the parish or municipality shall be required for the coroner to charge more than two hundred fifty dollars for the performance of an autopsy. In addition, the affirmative approval of the governing authority of the parish or municipality shall be required for the coroner to charge for any expense, tests, costs, or other fees, when the charge for such expenses, tests,

costs, or other fees exceed the maximum charges established in the coroner's annual fee schedule. In such fee schedule, the coroner shall list all fees for which a charge of fifty dollars is authorized by law. Such schedule shall be filed with the governing authority of each affected parish or municipality not later than the last day of January of each year.

B.(1) All necessary or unavoidable expenses, including supplies, incident to the operation and functioning of the coroner's office shall be paid by the parish when such expenses are certified by the coroner as being necessary or unavoidable.

(2) When quarters for the coroner's office or a morgue are established by the parish, the parish shall furnish essential supplies and equipment for the office or morgue.

(3) The parish shall pay the fees for all mental or physical examinations or investigations, commitments, interdictions, court attendance, or testimony and a just fee or remuneration for attending parish prisoners.

C.(1) When a death occurs and the death appears to have been due to natural causes, the coroner of the parish of domicile of the deceased shall be responsible for any investigation into the cause and manner of death and for any examination of the body or autopsy.

(2) When a death occurs and a crime or accident is suspected, the coroner of the parish where the crime or accident occurred shall be responsible for any investigation into the cause and manner of death and for any examination of the body or autopsy.

(3) It shall be the duty of the coroner who makes the final investigation to release the body for burial.

D.(1) The parish or municipality in which the deceased was domiciled, in the case of a death due to natural causes, or the parish or municipality in which the accident or crime occurred, in the case of a death due to other than natural causes, shall pay the coroner's fees and any necessary fees for the investigation and the cost of any autopsy including the cost of transporting the body. However, if the coroner of the parish in which the death occurred initially viewed the body or investigated the death, the fees for such viewing or investigation shall be paid to him by the parish or municipality in which the death occurred.

(2) When a natural death occurs outside the parish of domicile, the coroner of the parish where the death occurs shall forward all information from the initial investigation to the coroner of the parish where the decedent was domiciled. The coroner of the parish of domicile shall complete all the necessary documents, including the death certificate.

(3) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, when a death occurs at any state operated health care or treatment facility, any fee paid by the parish governing authority for the viewing and investigation of a body shall be reimbursed by the state. However, this shall not relieve the parish governing authority of the obligation to promptly pay the fee upon being billed therefor.

E. When a death occurs and the death was due to natural causes, the coroner's fees and expenses, including the cost of transporting the body, shall be paid by the municipality in which the deceased was domiciled or by the parish if the deceased was domiciled in the parish outside of a municipality. When a death occurs and the death was due to other than natural causes, the coroner's fees and expenses including the cost of transporting the body shall be paid by the municipality in which the crime or accident occurred or by the parish if the crime or accident occurred in the parish outside of a municipality.

F. Nothing herein shall be construed as prohibiting the payment by the parish or municipality of all necessary or unavoidable expenses certified by the coroner.

G. Payment of fees for coroners' services related to admittance or commitment of patients or residents to any state-operated health care or treatment facility shall be made by a parish immediately upon such admittance or commitment at the option of the coroner rendering such services.

H. Notwithstanding provisions of this Section requiring payments by the parish of fees and expenses for autopsies, when the coroner is responsible for autopsies of six or more persons whose deaths occur within a period of thirty days and during or as the result of a common accident or a disaster, as defined by R.S. 29:704(1),¹ the coroner may apply for payment of such fees and expenses to any federal, state, local, or interjurisdictional agency having disaster relief funds available for expenditure for such purposes, pursuant to R.S. 29:701 et seq.¹ or other law, or, if no such funds are available, to the interim emergency board, pursuant to R.S. 39:461 et seq.

Amended by Acts 1952, No. 151, §2; Acts 1977, No. 52, §1; Acts 1978, No. 429, §1; Acts 1984, No. 570, §1; Acts 1985, No. 241, §1; Acts 1985, No. 614, §1, eff. July 16, 1985; Acts 1986, No. 311, §1; Acts 1987, No. 878, §1; Acts 1988, No. 375, §1; Acts 1990, No. 762, §1; Acts 1991, No. 620, §1; Acts 1992, No. 599, §1; Redesignated from R.S. 33:1556 pursuant to Acts 2011, No. 248, §3.

¹Repealed by Acts 1993, No. 800, §3, eff. June 22, 1993.

NOTE: See Acts 1991, No. 620, §2.

§5712. Notification of death under suspicious circumstances; penalties for failure to comply

A. A physician or other person having knowledge of a death under sudden, accidental, violent, or suspicious circumstances or without medical attendance within thirty-six hours prior to death shall immediately notify the coroner of the death.

B. Before removing any such body from the place where death occurred or preparing same for burial or shipment or destroying any clothing or other evidence connected with the body, an undertaker, embalmer, or other person shall first notify the coroner and receive permission from the coroner.

C. A physician or other person reporting the death of any patient with a known or diagnosed virulent contagious disease, including acquired immune deficiency syndrome and including deceased individuals who are known carriers of any such disease but whose death is due to other causes, shall notify the coroner of such disease.

D. Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of this Section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not more than five thousand dollars.

Amended by Acts 1966, No. 312, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 1967; Acts 1984, No. 570, §1; Acts 1987, No. 878, §1; Redesignated from R.S. 33:1562 pursuant to Acts 2011, No. 248, §3.

§5713. Duty to hold autopsies, investigations, etc.

A. The coroner shall either view the body or make an investigation into the cause and manner of death in all cases involving the following:

- (1) Suspicious, unexpected, or unusual deaths.
- (2) Sudden or violent deaths.
- (3) Deaths due to unknown or obscure causes or in any unusual manner.
- (4) Bodies found dead.
- (5) Deaths without an attending physician within thirty-six hours prior to the hour of death.
- (6) Deaths due to suspected suicide or homicide.
- (7) Deaths in which poison is suspected.
- (8) Any death from natural causes occurring in a hospital under twenty-four hours admission unless seen by a physician in the last thirty-six hours.
- (9) Deaths following an injury or accident either old or recent.
- (10) Deaths due to drowning, hanging, burns, electrocution, gunshot wounds, stabs or cutting, lightning, starvation, radiation, exposure, alcoholism, addiction, tetanus, strangulation, suffocation, or smothering.
- (11) Deaths due to trauma from whatever cause.
- (12) Deaths due to criminal means or by casualty.
- (13) Deaths in prison or while serving a sentence.

(14) Deaths due to virulent contagious disease that might be caused by or cause a public hazard, including acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

B.(1) The coroner may perform or cause to be performed by a competent physician an autopsy in any case in his discretion. The coroner shall perform or cause to be performed by a competent physician an autopsy in the case of any death where there is a reasonable probability that the violation of a criminal statute has contributed to the death.

(2) The coroner or the district attorney may order the disinterment of any dead body within his jurisdiction under the direction or supervision of the person ordering the disinterment or his designee, and may authorize the removal of such dead body to a place designated by the person ordering the disinterment for the purpose of examination and autopsy and, when such is completed, order the reinterment of the body.

(3) The coroner may hold any dead body for any length of time that he deems necessary. However, the coroner shall expedite any investigation at the scene of an accident involving a fatality so as not to unduly delay the removal of the dead body from the accident scene. However, if a bodily substance sample for a toxicology screen is extracted at the accident scene, the extraction procedure shall be performed outside of public view.

(4)(a) He may remove and retain for testing or examination any specimens, organs, or other portion of the remains of the deceased that he may deem necessary or advisable as possible evidence before a grand jury or court, subject to the limitation set forth in R.S. 32:661(A)(2).

(b) The coroner may also remove and retain any specimens or organs of the deceased which in his discretion are necessary or desirable for anatomical, bacteriological, chemical, or toxicological examination, subject to the limitation set forth in R.S. 32:661(A)(2).

C.(1)(a) The coroner shall perform or cause to be performed by a competent physician an autopsy in all cases of infants under the age of one year who die unexpectedly without explanation.

(b) The autopsy shall include microscopic and toxicology studies.

(c) The coroner shall furnish a death certificate based upon his autopsy with his statement, to the best of his knowledge, of the cause and means of death.

(2) If the coroner finds that the cause of death was Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, he shall notify the director of the parish health unit within forty-eight hours after such determination.

(3) In preparing the certificate of death, the coroner may not, in lieu of an autopsy, rely on statements of relatives, persons in attendance during the last sickness, persons present at the time of death, or other persons having adequate knowledge of the facts, even if such data may be permitted in other cases in this Section.

(4) The coroner shall not perform an autopsy if the parents of the infant provide to the coroner their objection in writing, unless the coroner finds that the facts surrounding the death require that an autopsy be performed in the interest of the public safety, public health, or public welfare.

D. If the family of the deceased objects to an autopsy on religious grounds, the autopsy shall not be performed unless the coroner finds that the facts surrounding the death require that an autopsy be performed in the interest of the public safety, public health, or public welfare. In such cases the coroner shall provide the family his written reasons for the necessity of the autopsy.

E.(1) The coroner shall furnish a death certificate based on his examination, investigation, or autopsy, and he shall state as best he can the cause and means of death.

(2) If it appears that death was due to accident, suicide, or homicide, he shall so state.

(3) The cause of death, and the manner or mode in which the death occurred, as incorporated in the death certificate as provided in the Vital Statistics Laws, R.S. 40:32 et seq., filed with the division of vital records of the Department of Health and Hospitals, shall be the legally accepted cause of death, unless the court of the parish in which the death occurred, after a hearing, directs otherwise.

(4) In the case of a death without medical attendance, if there is no reason to suspect the death was due to violence, casualty, or undue means, the coroner may make the certificate of death from the statement of relatives, persons in attendance during the last sickness, persons present at the time of death, or other persons having adequate knowledge of the facts.

F. The coroner or his designee shall examine all alleged victims of rape, carnal knowledge, sexual battery, incest, and crime against nature when such cases are under police investigation.

G.(1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, when the coroner is required to furnish information for the issuance of a death certificate by the office of vital statistics, the coroner shall do so within ten working days after the receipt of all test and investigation results or information associated with the investigation into the cause and manner of death.

(2) If the coroner is unable to furnish the information required pursuant to Paragraph (1) of this Subsection within ten days after taking charge of the case, upon request, the coroner shall issue a written statement attesting to the fact of death, which shall constitute proof of death for all purposes, including but not limited to any claim under any policy of insurance issued on the life of the deceased individual.

H. In deaths investigated by the coroner where he is not able to establish the identity of the dead body by visual means, fingerprints, or other identifying data, the coroner shall have a qualified dentist or forensic anthropologist or forensic pathologist carry out a dental examination of the dead body. If the coroner, with the aid of the dental examination, is still not able to establish the identity of the dead body, the coroner shall prepare and forward the dental examination and other identifying records to state and local law enforcement agencies. When the dead body may be that of an individual under the age of eighteen years, the coroner shall send this information to

the Missing and Exploited Children Information Clearinghouse within the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of state police.

I. The coroner shall furnish a copy of his final report or autopsy report, or both, upon written request, to the last attending physician of the deceased or to the designated family physician of the deceased, provided that the family of the deceased has given written authorization to the coroner or to the requesting physician for the release of such report.

J. Autopsy reports prepared by the coroner or his designee are public records. The coroner shall provide one copy of the autopsy report upon request by the next of kin at no charge to the next of kin. The coroner shall provide copies of the autopsy report at no charge to the appropriate law enforcement agencies as requested. The public records fee for any other copy of an autopsy report shall be the same as that charged by the registrar of vital records for the state for a death certificate.

K.(1) For the purposes of this Section, an autopsy report is the work product of the coroner or his designee. When a coroner investigates a death, the office of the coroner is required to make available for public inspection and copying the autopsy report which shall contain the following:

(a) Name, age, sex, race, and address of the deceased.

(b) Date and reported time of death.

(c) Physical location, including address if available, where the deceased was found.

(d) Date, time, and place of autopsy, and the name of the doctor performing the autopsy and the names of all persons present at the autopsy.

(e) Information regarding the autopsy, including whether the autopsy was requested or performed by operation of law, a listing of the physical findings of the autopsy, a summary in narrative form of the medical findings and conclusions, the cause of death, the manner and mechanism of death, and the classification of death as homicide, accidental, suicide, undetermined, or under investigation.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, in a non-coroner case, no autopsy report shall be made available for public inspection or copying if the classification of death is that of natural causes except upon request by the next of kin or upon request in compliance with R.S. 13:3715.1.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection and notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 13:5714(C), no autopsy report pertaining to criminal litigation as defined in and in accordance with R.S. 44:3(A) shall be required to be made available for public inspection or copying except as otherwise provided by law.

L.(1) Liability shall not be imposed on an elected coroner or his support staff based upon the exercise or performance or the failure to exercise or perform their policymaking or discretionary acts when such acts are within the course and scope of their lawful powers and duties.

(2) The provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection are not applicable to any of the following:

(a) To acts or omissions which are not reasonably related to the legitimate governmental objective for which the policymaking or discretionary power exists; or

(b) To acts or omissions which constitute criminal, fraudulent, malicious, intentional, willful, outrageous, reckless, or flagrant misconduct.

(3) The legislature finds and states that the purpose of this Subsection is not to reestablish any immunity based on the status of sovereignty but rather to clarify the substantive content and parameters of application of such legislatively created codal articles and laws and also to assist in the implementation of Article II of the Constitution of Louisiana.

Amended by Acts 1966, No. 312, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 1967; Acts 1981, No. 211, §1; Acts 1984, No. 570, §1; Acts 1985, No. 240, §1; Acts 1985, No. 241, §1; Acts 1986, No. 311, §1; Acts 1986, No. 591, §1; Acts 1987, No. 878, §1; Acts 1988, No. 834, §1; Acts 1999, No. 761, §1, eff. July 2, 1999; Acts 1999, No. 1226, §1; Acts 1999, No. 1293, §1; Acts 1999, No. 1354, §2; Acts 2001, No. 1177, §1; Acts 2003, No. 794, §1; Acts 2011, No. 70, §1; Redesignated from R.S. 33:1563 pursuant to Acts 2011, No. 248, §3.

NOTE: See Acts 2003, No. 794, §2, relative to applicability.

§5714. Notification of next of kin

A. The coroner or his designee shall make every reasonable effort to notify the next of kin in all cases of deaths for which he has jurisdiction including but not limited to deaths enumerated in R.S. 13:5713(A).

B. In all other cases, including cases where a person dies of natural causes, the following persons or their designees shall make every reasonable effort to notify the next of kin within forty-eight hours of discovery of the death:

(1) The administrator of the hospital in which the person dies.

(2) The administrator or executive director of the nursing home or other facility in which the person dies.

(3) The chief of police or other chief officer of a local law enforcement agency which discovers the body of the deceased.

C. The coroner or his designee shall release to the news media or any family member the reported name, age, preliminary diagnosis, and status of death, whether unclassified or classified,

pending final autopsy or investigation results concerning a death under investigation. However, nothing in this Subsection shall authorize the release of the information set forth herein prior to notification of the next of kin to the deceased unless no next of kin can be determined or, despite reasonable efforts by the coroner's office, no next of kin can be located. This Subsection shall not require the release of information in non-coroner cases or in cases pertaining to criminal litigation in contravention of the provisions of R.S. 13:1513(K).

Repealed by Acts 1966, No. 312, §3, eff. Jan. 1, 1967. Acts 1984, No. 570, §1; Acts 1985, No. 241, §1; Acts 1993, No. 491, §1; Acts 1999, No. 1293, §1; Redesignated from R.S. 33:1564 pursuant to Acts 2011, No. 248, §3.

§5715. Delivery of body; burial of paupers; anatomical gifts; kidney or eye removal; limitation of liability

A.(1) Upon completion of an autopsy or completion of the coroner's investigation, if the investigation reveals that an autopsy is not required, the coroner shall release the body to the family or friends for burial.

(2) The coroner shall arrange for the burial of paupers, preferably by a Louisiana licensed funeral home. The burial expenses shall not exceed the actual cost of the service, and shall be paid by the parish or municipality in which the death occurred. However, such expenses for patients or residents of any state-operated health care or treatment facility shall not be paid by the parish or municipality in which the death occurred, but shall be paid by the state. The state or any municipality or parish may establish a maximum amount which it shall pay for individual burial expenses.

B.(1) If an individual gives all or any part of his body for any purpose authorized by R.S. 17:2353 in the manner specified in R.S. 17:2354, and no autopsy is required or permitted under the provisions of R.S. 13:5713, then the coroner shall promptly deliver the gift to the donee in accordance with the provisions of the Anatomical Gift Act (R.S. 17:2351 through 2355). If an individual authorized by R.S. 17:2352(B) gives all or any part of a deceased's body for any purpose authorized by R.S. 17:2353 in the manner specified in R.S. 17:2354, and no autopsy is required or permitted under the provisions of R.S. 13:5713, then the coroner shall cooperate with such individual by promptly delivering the gift to the donee in accordance with the provisions of the Anatomical Gift Act (R.S. 17:2351 through 2355). Any coroner, or agent or employee thereof, who acts in good faith when delivering an anatomical gift in accordance with this Section shall not be held liable for damages in any civil litigation or be subjected to any criminal prosecution for his actions. Any individual authorized by R.S. 17:2352(B) to make an anatomical gift may enforce the provisions of this Paragraph by immediately seeking an order from a district judge in the judicial district where the donor died or resided. The intent of this Paragraph is to facilitate prompt delivery of donated organs to satisfy the wishes of organ donors and ensure the viability of donated organs for their intended use.

(2) The coroner may authorize the removal of a decedent's eyes for donation to a donee authorized to become a donee under the provisions of R.S. 17:2353 upon request of any bank or storage facility, hospital, physician or surgeon, provided all of the following are true:

(a) The decedent who may provide the eyes is located within the parish of the coroner's jurisdiction.

(b) Following a good faith effort to locate decedent's next of kin for the purpose of obtaining consent for the removal of the eyes, the coroner knows of no objection by next of kin.

(c) The removal of the eyes will not interfere with the subsequent course of an investigation or autopsy or alter the facial appearance of the decedent.

(3) The coroner may authorize the removal of a decedent's kidneys for donation to a donee authorized to become a donee under the provisions of R.S. 17:2353 upon request of any bank or storage facility, hospital, physician or surgeon, provided all of the following are true:

(a) The decedent who may provide the kidneys is located within the parish of the coroner's jurisdiction.

(b) Following a good faith effort to locate decedent's next of kin for the purpose of obtaining consent for the removal of kidneys, the coroner knows of no objection by next of kin.

(c) The removal of the kidneys will not interfere with the subsequent course of an investigation or autopsy or alter the physical appearance of the decedent.

(4) The coroner may authorize the removal of a decedent's heart, lungs, liver, other soft tissue, or bone for donation to a donee authorized to become a donee under the provisions of R.S. 17:2353 upon request of any bank or storage facility, hospital, physician or surgeon provided all of the following are true:

(a) The decedent who may provide the heart, lungs, liver, other soft tissue, or bone is located within the parish of the coroner's jurisdiction.

(b) Following a good faith effort to locate decedent's next of kin for the purpose of obtaining consent for the removal of heart, lungs, liver, other soft tissue, or bone the coroner knows of no objection by next of kin.

(c) The removal of the heart, lungs, liver, other soft tissue, or bone will not interfere with the subsequent course of an investigation or autopsy or alter the physical appearance of the decedent.

Amended by Acts 1952, No. 151, §2; Acts 1966, No. 312, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 1967; Acts 1984, No. 570, §1; Acts 1985, No. 241, §1; Acts 1985, No. 455, §1; Acts 1986, No. 551, §1; Acts 1987, No. 55, §1, eff. June 8, 1987; Acts 2001, No. 1177, §1; Redesignated from R.S. 33:1565 pursuant to Acts 2011, No. 248, §3.

§5716. Cremation of bodies

If the cremation of a body is requested, the funeral director shall immediately notify the coroner who has jurisdiction in the death. If, after the necessary investigation, the coroner is satisfied

that there are no suspicious circumstances surrounding the death, he shall issue a permit for cremation. If the investigation reveals suspicious circumstances or the reasonable probability of the commission of a crime, the coroner shall deny the permit.

Amended by Acts 1952, No. 151, §2. Acts 1984, No. 570, §1; Redesignated from R.S. 33:1566 pursuant to Acts 2011, No. 248, §3.

§5717. Retention of decedent's personal effects; moving or disturbing the body of a deceased person; prohibitions

A. The coroner shall take charge of the personal effects and property of the deceased at the scene of death. As soon as practicable all of the effects and property shall be turned over to the lawful owner after use in court when needed.

B. The coroner shall collect any physical property or evidence found on the body which relates to the cause and manner of death or identity of the deceased. The coroner shall request law enforcement officials to collect any physical property or evidence connected with the cause of death or identity of the deceased which is found at the scene but not on the body. If law enforcement officials refuse to gather such evidence when requested by the coroner, the evidence may be collected by the coroner. The evidence or effects shall then be disposed of in accordance with law.

C. It shall be unlawful for any person without specific authorization from the coroner or his designee, other than law enforcement or medical personnel, to touch, move, or disturb the body of a deceased person or remove any personal effects or disturb the immediate area where the body is or has been found, if the deceased person's death occurred under any circumstances which reasonably suggest that the person's death, either directly or indirectly, occurred as a result of a violation of law or a coroner's case as defined by law. However, the body may be moved if it is necessary for the preservation of the body, or if necessary to protect public safety or welfare.

Acts 1984, No. 570, §1; Acts 1986, No. 311, §1; Acts 1995, No. 288, §1; Redesignated from R.S. 33:1567 pursuant to Acts 2011, No. 248, §3.

