

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

3 SENATE BILL 698

By: Griffin

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to confidentiality of autopsy
8 reports; amending 63 O.S. 2011, Section 945, as
9 amended by Section 14, Chapter 293, O.S.L. 2014 (63
10 O.S. Supp. 2014, Section 945), which relates to
11 autopsy reports; requiring redaction of certain
12 information prior to release of autopsy reports to
13 certain persons; and providing an effective date.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

15 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2011, Section 945, as
16 amended by Section 14, Chapter 293, O.S.L. 2014 (63 O.S. Supp. 2014,
17 Section 945), is amended to read as follows:

18 Section 945. When properly authorized, an autopsy shall be
19 performed by the Chief Medical Examiner or such person as may be
20 designated by him or her for such purpose. The Chief Medical
21 Examiner or a person designated by him or her may authorize arterial
22 embalming of the body prior to the autopsy when such embalming would
23 in his or her opinion not interfere with the autopsy. The extent of
24 the autopsy shall be made as is deemed necessary by the person
performing the autopsy. A full and complete report of the facts

1 developed by the autopsy together with the findings of the person
2 making it shall be prepared and filed in the Office of the Chief
3 Medical Examiner without unnecessary delay. Copies of such reports
4 and findings shall be furnished to district attorneys and law
5 enforcement officers making a criminal investigation in connection
6 with the death. Before making autopsy reports available to media
7 outlets and persons without a demonstrable family relation to the
8 deceased, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner shall redact all
9 health information relating to the deceased and the reports shall
10 only provide the name and cause of death.

11 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2015.

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