

**Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1481
(Representative Dobervich)

AN ACT to create and enact a new subsection to section 44-04-18.7 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to exempt records of coroners and medical examiners; and to amend and reenact subsection 2 of section 23-02.1-27 and subdivision a of subsection 2 of section 44-04-18.18 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to access to death records and training of coroner and medical personnel.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Subsection 2 of section 23-02.1-27 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

2. A certified copy of a complete death record may be issued to a relative, an authorized representative, the child fatality review board, a licensed physician, or a genetic sibling for the purposes of researching family medical history; a funeral director, coroner, medical examiner, or state forensic examiner reporting the facts of death; ~~or;~~ a person with personal or real property interests that depend upon information contained in the complete death record; or by the order of a court of competent jurisdiction, and may include the cause of death and the social security number. A certified copy of the facts of death record that includes the facts of death and the social security number may be issued to any person that may obtain a certified copy of a complete death record or to any licensed attorney who requires the copy for a bona fide legal determination. A certified copy of an informational death record may be issued to the general public, but the copy may not contain the cause of death or the social security number.

SECTION 2. A new subsection to section 44-04-18.7 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

An image taken by a coroner, a medical examiner, or coroner or medical examiner personnel, using a digital camera or similar device is an exempt record.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Subdivision a of subsection 2 of section 44-04-18.18 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- a. After redacting all information identifying the decedent, including name, address, and social security number, and anonymizing facial recognition, a medical examiner, coroner, or physician may use an autopsy photograph, image, or recording for:
 - (1) Medical or scientific teaching or training purposes;
 - (2) Teaching or training of law enforcement personnel;
 - (3) Teaching or training of attorneys or others with a bona fide professional need to use or understand forensic science;
 - (4) Conferring with medical or scientific experts; ~~or~~
 - (5) Publication in a scientific or medical journal or textbook; or
 - (6) Teaching or training of coroner personnel or other licensed or certified medical professionals.

Dennis E Johnson
Speaker of the House

Tammy Miller
President of the Senate

Bull T. Reick
Chief Clerk of the House

David Meyer
Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1481.

House Vote: Yeas 88 Nays 6 Absent 0

Senate Vote: Yeas 44 Nays 1 Absent 2

Bull T. Reick
Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at 10:08 AM on March 21, 2023.

Approved at 9:57 AM on March 23, 2023.

Doug Burgum
Governor

Filed in this office this 23rd day of March, 2023,

at 11:23 o'clock A. M.

Michael Howe
Secretary of State