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HOUSE BILL No. 1031

Proposed Changes to January 6, 2026 printing by AM103104

DIGEST OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Duties. Specifies the duties of the coroner.

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning local government.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 4-23-6.5-10, AS AMENDED BY P.L.3-2008,
- 2 SECTION 10, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
- 3 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10. The board shall consult with the Indiana law
- 4 enforcement academy under IC 36-2-14-22.3 concerning criminal
- 5 investigations in the creation of:
- 6 (1) the training course for coroners and deputy coroners under
- 7 IC 36-2-14-22.3(a); and
- 8 (2) the annual training course for coroners and deputy coroners
- 9 under ~~IC 36-2-14-22.3(b)~~; IC 36-2-14-22.3(c).
- 10 SECTION 2. IC 35-52-36-13.3 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
- 11 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
- 12 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 13.3. IC 36-2-14-23 defines a**
- 13 **crime concerning coroners and deputy coroners.**
- 14 SECTION 3. IC 36-2-14-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.186-2025,
- 15 SECTION 254, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
- 16 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. (a) Whenever the coroner is
- 17 notified that a person in the county:
- 18 (1) has died from violence;
- 19 (2) has died by casualty;
- 20 (3) has died when apparently in good health;
- 21 (4) has died in an apparently suspicious, unusual, or unnatural

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- 1 manner; or
 2 (5) has been found dead;
 3 the coroner shall, before the scene of the death is disturbed, notify a
 4 law enforcement agency having jurisdiction in that area. The agency
 5 shall assist the coroner in determining the cause, manner, and
 6 mechanism of death. The coroner shall hold the human remains until
 7 the investigation of how the person died and the medical investigation
 8 of the cause of death are concluded.
- 9 (b) The law enforcement agency having jurisdiction shall, in
 10 cooperation with the coroner, secure, control, and process the
 11 scene of the death. The agency shall conduct the criminal
 12 investigation into the death, including but not limited to evidence
 13 collection, witness interviews, suspect identification, and case
 14 preparation.
- 15 (c) The coroner has exclusive custody of the body and any
 16 property on the body not secured as evidence. The coroner shall
 17 coordinate the examination and removal of the body with the law
 18 enforcement agency to ensure preservation of evidence and the
 19 integrity of the scene.
- 20 (d) The coroner and the law enforcement agency shall
 21 cooperate fully, share information, and conduct their respective
 22 duties as part of a single coordinated death investigation.
- 23 (b) (e) If the coroner reasonably suspects the cause of the person's
 24 death to be accidental or intentional overdose of a controlled substance
 25 (as defined by IC 35-48-1.1-7), the coroner shall do the following:
- 26 (1) Obtain any relevant information about the decedent
 27 maintained by the INSPECT program established by
 28 IC 25-1-13-4.
- 29 (2) Extract one (1) or more of the following bodily fluids from
 30 the decedent:
- 31 (A) Blood.
 32 (B) Vitreous.
 33 (C) Urine.
- 34 (3) Test a bodily fluid extracted under subdivision (2) to
 35 determine whether the bodily fluid contained any amount,
 36 including a trace amount, of a controlled substance at the time of
 37 the decedent's death.
- 38 (4) If the coroner reasonably suspects the cause of the person's
 39 death to be accidental or intentional overdose of an opioid (as
 40 defined in IC 35-48-1.1-31) or if the person was administered an
 41 overdose intervention drug (as defined in IC 16-18-2-263.9)
 42 prior to death and was unresponsive to the overdose intervention

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1 drug, the coroner shall test a bodily fluid extracted under
 2 subdivision (2) to determine whether the bodily fluid contained
 3 any amount, including a trace amount, of xylazine at the time of
 4 the decedent's death.

5 (5) Report the results of the test conducted under this subsection
 6 to the Indiana department of health after completing the medical
 7 investigation of the cause of the decedent's death.

8 (6) Provide the Indiana department of health notice of the
 9 decedent's death, including any information related to the
 10 controlled substances involved, if any.

11 (e) (f) The coroner:

12 (1) shall file a certificate of death with the county health
 13 department, or, if applicable, a multiple county health
 14 department, of the county in which the individual died, within
 15 seventy-two (72) hours after the completion of the death
 16 investigation;

17 (2) shall complete the certificate of death utilizing all verifiable
 18 information establishing the time and date of death; and

19 (3) may file a pending investigation certificate of death before
 20 completing the certificate of death, if necessary.

21 (d) (g) If this section applies, the body and the scene of death may
 22 not be disturbed until:

23 (1) the coroner has photographed them in the manner that most
 24 fully discloses how the person died; and

25 (2) law enforcement and the coroner have finished their initial
 26 assessment of the scene of death.

27 However, a coroner or law enforcement officer may order a body to be
 28 moved before photographs are taken if the position or location of the
 29 body unduly interferes with activities carried on where the body is
 30 found, but the body may not be moved from the immediate area and
 31 must be moved without substantially destroying or altering the
 32 evidence present.

33 (e) (h) When acting under this section, if the coroner considers it
 34 necessary to have an autopsy performed, is required to perform an
 35 autopsy under subsection (e); (j), or is requested by the prosecuting
 36 attorney of the county to perform an autopsy, the coroner shall arrange
 37 for the autopsy to be performed by a:

38 (1) physician who:

39 (A) is certified by the American Board of Pathology; or

40 (B) holds a subspecialty board certification in forensic
 41 pathology from the American Osteopathic Board of

42 Pathology and the American Osteopathic Association; or

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1 (2) pathology resident acting under the direct supervision of a
 2 physician described in subdivision (1).

3 A physician employed under subdivision (1) to perform the autopsy
 4 shall be paid a fee of at least fifty dollars (\$50) from the county
 5 treasury.

6 (f) (i) If:

7 (1) at the request of:

8 (A) the decedent's spouse;

9 (B) a child of the decedent, if the decedent does not have a
 10 spouse;

11 (C) a parent of the decedent, if the decedent does not have
 12 a spouse or children;

13 (D) a brother or sister of the decedent, if the decedent does
 14 not have a spouse, children, or parents; or

15 (E) a grandparent of the decedent, if the decedent does not
 16 have a spouse, children, parents, brothers, or sisters;

17 (2) in any death, two (2) or more witnesses who corroborate the
 18 circumstances surrounding death are present; and

19 (3) two (2) physicians who are licensed to practice medicine in
 20 the state and who have made separate examinations of the
 21 decedent certify the same cause of death in an affidavit within
 22 twenty-four (24) hours after death;

23 an autopsy need not be performed. The affidavits shall be filed with the
 24 circuit court clerk.

25 (g) (j) A county coroner may not certify the cause of death in the
 26 case of the sudden and unexpected death of a child who is less than
 27 three (3) years old unless an autopsy is performed at county expense.
 28 However, a coroner may certify the cause of death of a child described
 29 in this subsection without the performance of an autopsy if subsection
 30 (f) (i) applies to the death of the child.

31 (h) (k) After consultation with the law enforcement agency
 32 investigating the death of a decedent, the coroner shall do the
 33 following:

34 (1) Inform a crematory authority if a person is barred under
 35 IC 23-14-31-26(c) from serving as the authorizing agent with
 36 respect to the cremation of the decedent's body because the
 37 coroner made the determination under IC 23-14-31-26(c)(2) in
 38 connection with the death of the decedent.

39 (2) Inform a cemetery owner if a person is barred under
 40 IC 23-14-55-2(c) from authorizing the disposition of the body or
 41 cremated remains of the decedent because the coroner made the
 42 determination under IC 23-14-55-2(c)(2) in connection with the

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1 death of the decedent.

2 (3) Inform a seller of prepaid services or merchandise if a
 3 person's contract is unenforceable under IC 30-2-13-23(b)
 4 because the coroner made the determination under
 5 IC 30-2-13-23(b)(4) in connection with the death of the
 6 decedent.

7 SECTION 4. IC 36-2-14-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.127-2017,
 8 SECTION 95, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 9 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. (a) At an investigation under this chapter, the
 10 coroner shall examine persons wanting to testify and may examine
 11 persons the coroner has summoned by the coroner's subpoena.
 12 Witnesses shall answer under oath all questions concerning the death
 13 under investigation.

14 (b) If a physician is required to attend an investigation and make
 15 a post mortem examination, the coroner shall certify this service to the
 16 county executive, which shall order payment for the physician from the
 17 county treasury.

18 SECTION 5. IC 36-2-14-8 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
 19 2026]. Sec. 8: A witness testifying before a county coroner is entitled
 20 to the same fees as a witness testifying in the circuit court for the
 21 county.

22 SECTION 6. IC 36-2-14-9 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
 23 2026]. Sec. 9: The testimony of each witness at a coroner's
 24 investigation shall be reduced to writing and signed by the witness. The
 25 coroner shall, by recognizance in a reasonable sum, bind any witness
 26 whose testimony relates to the trial of a person concerned in the death
 27 to give evidence in court and shall send the written evidence and
 28 recognizance of the witness to the court. The coroner shall commit to
 29 the county jail a witness who refuses to enter into the recognizance
 30 required by this section.

31 SECTION 7. IC 36-2-14-10, AS AMENDED BY P.L.127-2017,
 32 SECTION 97, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 33 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10. (a) After viewing the body, hearing the
 34 considering all the evidence relating to the death, and making all
 35 necessary inquiries, the coroner shall **determine the cause, manner,**
 36 **and mechanism of death and** draw up and sign the coroner's verdict
 37 on the death under consideration. The coroner shall also make a written
 38 report giving an accurate description of the deceased person, the
 39 deceased person's name if it can be determined, and the amount of
 40 money and other property found with the body. The verdict and the
 41 written report are subject to inspection and copying under IC 5-14-3-3.

42 (b) Except as provided in subsections (c), (d), and (e), a

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1 photograph, video recording, or audio recording of an autopsy in the
 2 custody of a medical examiner is declared confidential for purposes of
 3 IC 5-14-3-4(a)(1).

4 (c) A surviving spouse may:

5 (1) view and copy a photograph or video recording; and

6 (2) listen to and copy an audio recording;

7 of the deceased spouse's autopsy. If there is no surviving spouse, the
 8 surviving parents shall have access to the records under this section. If
 9 there is no surviving spouse or parent, an adult child shall have access
 10 to the records.

11 (d) Upon making a written request, a unit (as defined in
 12 IC 36-1-2-23), the state, an agency of the state, the federal government,
 13 or an agency of the federal government, while in performance of their
 14 official duty, may:

15 (1) view and copy a photograph or video recording; and

16 (2) listen to and copy an audio recording;

17 of an autopsy. Unless otherwise required in the performance of official
 18 duties, the identity of the deceased must remain confidential.

19 (e) The coroner or the coroner's designee having custody of a
 20 photograph, a video recording, or an audio recording of an autopsy may
 21 use or allow the use of the photograph, video recording, or audio
 22 recording of the autopsy for case consultation with a pathologist or
 23 forensic scientist. The coroner or the coroner's designee having custody
 24 of a photograph, a video recording, or an audio recording of an autopsy
 25 may also use or allow the use of the photograph, video recording, or
 26 audio recording for training or educational purposes (as defined in
 27 IC 16-39-7.1-1.5) if all information that identifies the individual on
 28 whom the autopsy was performed is masked or removed from the
 29 photograph, video recording, or audio recording. For purposes of this
 30 subsection, information that identifies an individual consists of:

31 (1) the name;

32 (2) the address;

33 (3) the Social Security number;

34 (4) a full view of the face; or

35 (5) identifying marks on the body that are unrelated to the
 36 medical condition or medical status;

37 of the deceased individual. A coroner or coroner's designee who allows
 38 the use of autopsy information under this subsection has a duty to
 39 disclose to each person to whom the coroner or coroner's designee
 40 releases it that the information is confidential and may not be used for
 41 a purpose other than the purpose for which it was originally released.
 42 Information disclosed under this subsection is confidential. A coroner

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1 or coroner's designee who fails to disclose the confidentiality
 2 restrictions of this information commits a Class A misdemeanor.

3 (f) Except as provided in subsection (e), the coroner or the
 4 coroner's designee having custody of a photograph, a video, or an audio
 5 recording of an autopsy may not permit a person to:

6 (1) view or copy the photograph or video recording; and

7 (2) listen to or copy the audio recording;

8 of an autopsy without a court order.

9 (g) A court, upon a showing of good cause, may issue an order
 10 authorizing a person to:

11 (1) view or copy a photograph or video recording; and

12 (2) listen to or copy an audio recording;

13 of an autopsy, and may prescribe any restrictions or stipulations that the
 14 court considers appropriate.

15 (h) In determining good cause under subsection (g), the court shall
 16 consider:

17 (1) whether the disclosure is necessary for the public evaluation
 18 of governmental performance;

19 (2) the seriousness of the intrusion into the family's right to
 20 privacy;

21 (3) whether the disclosure of the photograph, video recording, or
 22 audio recording is by the least intrusive means available; and

23 (4) the availability of similar information in other public records,
 24 regardless of form.

25 (i) In all cases, the viewing, copying, listening to, or other handling
 26 of a photograph, video recording, or audio recording of an autopsy
 27 must be under the direct supervision of the coroner, or the coroner's
 28 designee, who is the custodian of the record.

29 (j) A surviving spouse shall be given:

30 (1) reasonable notice of the petition filed with the court to view
 31 or copy a photograph or video recording of an autopsy or a
 32 petition to listen to or copy an audio recording;

33 (2) a copy of the petition filed with the court to view or copy a
 34 photograph or video recording of an autopsy or a petition to
 35 listen to or copy an audio recording; and

36 (3) reasonable notice of the opportunity to be present and heard
 37 at any hearing on the matter.

38 (k) If there is no surviving spouse, the notice under subsection (j)
 39 must be given to the deceased's parents, and if the deceased has no
 40 living parent, the notice must be given to the adult children of the
 41 deceased.

42 (l) A coroner or coroner's designee who:

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- 1 (1) is the custodian of a photograph, a video recording, or an
 2 audio recording of an autopsy; and
 3 (2) knowingly or intentionally violates this section;
 4 commits a Class A misdemeanor.
 5 (m) A person who knowingly or intentionally violates a court order
 6 issued under this section commits a Class A misdemeanor.
 7 (n) A person who:
 8 (1) receives autopsy information under subsection (e); and
 9 (2) knowingly or intentionally uses the information in a manner
 10 other than the specified purpose for which it was released;
 11 commits a Class A misdemeanor.
 12 SECTION 8. IC 36-2-14-19, AS AMENDED BY P.L.193-2018,
 13 SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 14 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 19. (a) As used in this section, "cornea" includes
 15 corneal tissue.
 16 (b) As used in this section, "decedent" means a person described
 17 in section 6(a)(1) through 6(a)(5) of this chapter.
 18 (c) As used in this section, "eye bank" means a nonprofit
 19 corporation:
 20 (1) organized under Indiana law;
 21 (2) exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501 of
 22 the Internal Revenue Code; and
 23 (3) whose purposes include obtaining, storing, and distributing
 24 corneas that are to be used for corneal transplants or for other
 25 medical or medical research purposes.
 26 (d) If under ~~section 6(e)~~ **section 6** of this chapter the coroner
 27 requires an autopsy to be performed upon a decedent, the coroner may
 28 authorize the removal of one (1) or both of the decedent's corneas for
 29 donation to an eye bank for transplantation, if the following conditions
 30 exist:
 31 (1) The decedent's corneas are not necessary for successful
 32 completion of the autopsy.
 33 (2) The decedent's corneas are not necessary for use as evidence.
 34 (3) Removal of the decedent's corneas will not alter the
 35 postmortem facial appearance of the decedent.
 36 (4) A representative of the eye bank, authorized by the trustees
 37 of the eye bank to make requests for corneas, has done the
 38 following:
 39 (A) Within six (6) hours after the time of death, made a
 40 reasonable attempt to:
 41 (i) contact any of the persons listed in the order of
 42 priority specified in IC 29-2-16.1-8; and

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(ii) inform the person of the effect of the removal of the decedent's corneas on the physical appearance of the decedent.

(B) Submitted to the coroner:

(i) a written request for the donation by the coroner of corneas of the decedent subject to autopsy under ~~section 6(e)~~ section 6 of this chapter; and

(ii) a written certification that corneas donated under this section are intended to be used only for cornea transplant.

(5) The removal of the corneas and their donation to the eye bank will not alter a gift made by:

(A) the decedent when alive; or

(B) any of the persons listed in the order of priority specified in IC 29-2-16.1-8;

to an agency or organization other than the eye bank making the request for the donation.

(6) The coroner, at the time the removal and donation of a decedent's corneas is authorized, does not know of any objection to the removal and donation of the decedent's corneas made by:

(A) the decedent, as evidenced in a written document executed by the decedent when alive; or

(B) any of the persons listed in the order of priority specified in IC 29-2-16.1-8.

(e) A person, including a coroner and an eye bank and the eye bank's representatives, who exercises reasonable care in complying with subsection (d)(6) is immune from civil liability arising from cornea removal and donation allowed under this section.

(f) A person who authorizes the donation of a decedent's corneas may not be charged for the costs related to the donation. The recipient of the donation is responsible for the costs related to the donation.

SECTION 9. IC 36-2-14-20, AS AMENDED BY P.L.225-2025, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 20. (a) This section applies only to the autopsy of a person whose death is:

- (1) natural;
- (2) suspicious;
- (3) violent;
- (4) accidental; or
- (5) from an overdose.

(b) As used in this section, "autopsy" means the external and surgical internal examination of all body systems of a decedent,

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1 including toxicology and histology.

2 (c) Except as provided in subsection (e) and IC 4-24-4-1, if an
 3 Indiana resident dies in an Indiana county as a result of an incident that
 4 occurred in another Indiana county, the county coroner where the death
 5 occurred shall contact the coroner of the county where the incident
 6 occurred to discuss whether an autopsy is needed. The coroner where
 7 the incident occurred must respond to the coroner where the death
 8 occurred not more than twenty-four (24) hours after being contacted to
 9 discuss the need for an autopsy. If, after discussion, the coroners:

10 (1) agree that an autopsy is needed:

11 (A) the coroner of the county in which the incident occurred
 12 is responsible for the cost of the autopsy, including the
 13 physician fee under ~~section 6(e)~~ **section 6** of this chapter;
 14 and

15 (B) the coroner of the county where the death occurred shall
 16 bill the county in which the incident occurred for the costs
 17 in clause (A) not later than one hundred eighty (180) days
 18 after the death occurred; or

19 (2) disagree that an autopsy is needed, the coroner of the county
 20 that conducts the autopsy is responsible for the cost of the
 21 autopsy, including the physician fee under ~~section 6(e)~~ **section**
 22 **6** of this chapter except in the instance of a criminal case that
 23 could result in criminal charges in which the county where the
 24 incident occurred is responsible for the cost of the autopsy,
 25 including the physician fee under ~~section 6(e)~~ **section 6** of this
 26 chapter.

27 (d) If the coroner where the incident occurred fails to respond to
 28 the coroner where the death occurred not more than twenty-four (24)
 29 hours after being contacted under subsection (c) to discuss whether an
 30 autopsy is needed:

31 (1) the coroner where the death occurred may perform an
 32 autopsy, if the coroner believes that an autopsy is warranted;

33 (2) the coroner of the county in which the incident occurred is
 34 responsible for the cost of the autopsy, including the physician
 35 fee under ~~section 6(e)~~ **section 6** of this chapter; and

36 (3) the coroner of the county where the death occurred shall bill
 37 the county in which the incident occurred for the costs in
 38 subdivision (2) not later than one hundred eighty (180) days after
 39 the death occurred.

40 (e) Except as provided in subsections (c) and (d) and IC 4-24-4-1,
 41 payment for the costs of an autopsy requested by a party other than the:

42 (1) prosecuting attorney; or

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1 (2) county coroner;
2 of the county in which the individual died must be made by the party
3 requesting the autopsy.

4 (f) This section does not preclude the coroner of a county in which
5 a death occurs from attempting to recover autopsy costs from the
6 jurisdiction outside Indiana where the incident that caused the death
7 occurred.

8 SECTION 10.] IC 36-2-14-22.1, AS AMENDED BY THE
9 TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS BILL OF THE 2026 GENERAL
10 ASSEMBLY, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
11 JANUARY 1, 2026 (RETROACTIVE)]: Sec. 22.1. (a) As used in this
12 section, "hospital" refers to a hospital that is licensed under IC 16-21-2.

13 (b) Upon the request of a coroner who is conducting or will
14 conduct a death investigation on an individual who is admitted or was
15 admitted to a hospital, the hospital shall provide a sample of the
16 individual's blood or tissue to the coroner.

17 (c) A hospital shall have a blood retention protocol for the
18 preservation of the first sample of blood drawn for an individual
19 seeking treatment of emergency care services at an emergency
20 department of the hospital regardless of whether the individual is
21 ultimately admitted to the hospital: **who is:**

- 22 **(1) treated for an injury that is suspicious, violent,**
- 23 **accidental, or from an overdose;**
- 24 **(2) determined by a provider to be critically injured or**
- 25 **mortally wounded at the time the patient seeks emergency**
- 26 **care services at the emergency department; and**
- 27 **(3) admitted as an inpatient to the hospital.**

28 **The requirements set forth in this subsection may be waived in any**
29 **case where a first sample of blood cannot be drawn in the best**
30 **interest of the clinical care of the patient or the first sample of**
31 **blood is adulterated.**

32 **(d) The protocol under subsection (c) shall include a plan for:**
33 **(1) when a patient is transferred to another hospital; and**
34 **(2) notifying the laboratory for a requisition or order for whole**
35 **blood sample analysis for the patient identified under**
36 **subsection (c). to indicate when a patient is:**

- 37 **(A) treated for an injury that is suspicious, violent,**
- 38 **accidental, or from an overdose; and**
- 39 **(B) determined by a provider to be critically injured or**
- 40 **mortally wounded at the time the patient seeks emergency**
- 41 **care services at the emergency department.**

42 ~~(d)~~ **(e) A laboratory that receives an order for whole blood sample**

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1 analysis and the notification under subsection ~~(c)(2)~~ **(d)(2)** shall do the
2 following:

3 (1) The laboratory shall hold the blood sample in storage until
4 the earlier of the following:

5 (A) The expiration of the twenty-one (21) day period
6 beginning on the date that the sample of the patient's blood
7 is drawn.

8 (B) The date of the patient's discharge from the hospital. For
9 purposes of this clause, the transfer of the patient to another
10 hospital does not constitute a discharge.

11 (C) The date of the patient's death.

12 (2) This subdivision applies if:

13 (A) the patient is transferred to another hospital; and

14 (B) at the time of the transfer, the ~~transferring hospital~~
15 **laboratory** is still holding the first blood sample in storage
16 in accordance with subdivision (1)(A).

17 The transferring hospital laboratory shall hold the first blood
18 sample in storage in accordance with subdivision (1)(A), unless
19 the transferring hospital laboratory receives information from the
20 receiving hospital that the patient has been discharged from the
21 receiving hospital or has died.

22 The requirements set forth in this subsection may be waived in any
23 case where the sample is tested and cannot be retained for reasons of
24 medical necessity in the clinical care of the patient.

25 ~~(c)~~ **(f)** A coroner does not need to obtain a warrant to request a
26 blood or tissue sample under this section.

27 SECTION ~~4~~ [\[11\]](#). IC 36-2-14-22.3, AS ADDED BY P.L.3-2008,
28 SECTION 258, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
29 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 22.3. (a) The coroners training
30 board established by IC 4-23-6.5-3, in consultation with the Indiana
31 law enforcement academy, shall create and offer a training course for
32 coroners and deputy coroners. **The training course must include, at
33 a minimum, forty (40) hours of instruction. The training course
34 must require each coroner and deputy coroner to attend, complete,
35 and successfully pass a certification program that consists of
36 in-person classroom lectures and instruction, as well as a
37 supervised externship.**

38 **(b)** The training course **described in subsection (a)** must include
39 **instruction regarding:**

40 ~~(1)~~ **(1)** at least forty ~~(40)~~ hours of instruction; and

41 ~~(2)~~ **(2)** instruction regarding:

42 ~~(A)~~ **(1)** death investigation;

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- 1 ~~(B)~~ **(2)** crime scenes; and
- 2 ~~(C)~~ **(3)** preservation of evidence at a crime scene for police and
- 3 crime lab technicians.
- 4 ~~(b)~~ **(c)** The coroners training board, in consultation with the
- 5 Indiana law enforcement academy, shall create and offer an annual
- 6 training course for coroners and deputy coroners. The annual training
- 7 course must **include at a minimum eight (8) hours of instruction and**
- 8 **cover recent developments in:**
- 9 ~~(1)~~ **include at least eight (8) hours of instruction; and**
- 10 ~~(2)~~ **cover recent developments in:**
- 11 ~~(A)~~ **(1)** death investigation;
- 12 ~~(B)~~ **(2)** crime scenes; and
- 13 ~~(C)~~ **(3)** preservation of evidence at a crime scene for police and
- 14 crime lab technicians.
- 15 ~~(c)~~ **(d)** In creating the courses under **this section subsections (a)**
- 16 **and (b)**, the coroners training board shall consult with a pathologist
- 17 certified by the American Board of Pathology regarding medical issues
- 18 that are a part of the training courses.
- 19 ~~(d)~~ **(e)** All training in the courses offered under **this section** [
- 20 **subsections (a) and (b)** that involves medical issues must be approved
- 21 by a pathologist certified by the American Board of Pathology.
- 22 ~~(e)~~ **(f)** All training in the courses offered under **this section** [
- 23 **subsections (a) and (b)** that involves crime scenes and evidence
- 24 preservation must be approved by a law enforcement officer.
- 25 ~~(f)~~ **(g)** The coroners training board shall issue a coroner or deputy
- 26 coroner a certificate upon successful completion of the courses
- 27 described in **subsections (a) and (b); this section.**
- 28 SECTION ~~↔~~ [12]. IC 36-2-14-23, AS AMENDED BY
- 29 P.L.3-2008, SECTION 260, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
- 30 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 23. (a) Each coroner shall
- 31 successfully complete the training course offered under section 22.3(a)
- 32 of this chapter within six (6) months after taking office.
- 33 (b) Each deputy coroner shall successfully complete the training
- 34 course offered under section 22.3(a) of this chapter within one (1) year
- 35 after beginning employment with a coroner's office.
- 36 (c) Each coroner and each deputy coroner shall successfully
- 37 complete the annual training course offered under section ~~22.3(b)~~
- 38 **22.3(c)** of this chapter each year after the year in which the coroner or
- 39 deputy coroner received the training required by section 22.3(a) of this
- 40 chapter.
- 41 (d) After a coroner or deputy coroner has:
- 42 (1) successfully completed the training course as required under

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1 subsection (a) or (b); and
2 (2) successfully completed the annual training course as required
3 under subsection (c);

4 the coroner or deputy coroner shall present a certificate or other
5 evidence to the county executive, or in the case of a county that
6 contains a consolidated city, the city-county council, that the coroner
7 or deputy coroner has successfully completed the training required
8 under subsection (a), (b), or (c).

9 (e) If a coroner or deputy coroner does not present a certificate or
10 other evidence to the county executive, or in the case of a county that
11 contains a consolidated city, the city-county council, that the coroner
12 or deputy coroner has successfully completed the training required
13 under subsection (a), (b), or (c), the county executive or city-county
14 council shall order the auditor to withhold the paycheck of the coroner
15 or deputy coroner until the coroner or deputy coroner satisfies the
16 respective training requirements under subsections (a), (b), and (c),
17 unless the county executive or city-county council adopts a resolution
18 finding that:

19 (1) the failure of the coroner or deputy coroner to complete the
20 respective training requirements under subsections (a), (b), and
21 (c) is the result of unusual circumstances;

22 (2) the coroner or deputy coroner is making reasonable progress,
23 under the circumstances, toward completing the respective
24 training requirements under subsections (a), (b), and (c); and

25 (3) in light of the unusual circumstances described in
26 subdivision (1), withholding the paycheck of the coroner or
27 deputy coroner would be unjust.

28 (f) If the county executive or city-county council orders an auditor
29 to withhold a paycheck under subsection (e) and a coroner or deputy
30 coroner later presents a certificate or other evidence to the county
31 executive or city-county council that the coroner or deputy coroner has
32 successfully completed training required under subsection (a), (b), or
33 (c), the county executive or city-county council shall order the auditor
34 to release all of the coroner's or deputy coroner's paychecks that were
35 withheld from the coroner or deputy coroner.

36 (g) **A coroner or deputy coroner who has not successfully**
37 **completed the training required under subsection (a) or (b) may**
38 **not conduct a death investigation or sign a death certificate. A**
39 **coroner or deputy coroner who violates this subsection commits a**
40 **Class B misdemeanor.**

41 (h) **If a coroner or deputy coroner begins a training course**
42 **required under subsection (a) or (b) but fails to complete the**

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1 **course within the time required by this section, the county shall**
2 **reimburse the coroners training board for the cost of the training.**
3 **The county may recover from the individual the amount the county**
4 **reimbursed the coroners training board under this subsection.**
5 SECTION  [\[13\]](#). An emergency is declared for this act.

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