

**Minimum Standards for Coroners in Alabama**  
*Alabama Coroners' Training Commission*  
**Effective January 1, 2027**

To be considered a Coroner “**In Good Standing**” and eligible to receive an official letter of compliance, each Coroner and their office must meet the following minimum standards:

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**1. Training & Continuing Education**

- Complete a minimum of 12 hours of approved training (ABMDI and/or ACTC) within 6 months of taking office and annually thereafter. (*§11-5-31 d,e*)
- Maintain ongoing education to ensure competency in forensic investigation and evidence collection.

**2. Death Investigation Protocols**

- Maintain working knowledge of Alabama Code §22-9A-13 & §22-9A-14.
- Ensure all unattended or unnatural deaths are reported and investigated.
- Investigate unexpected/unexplained child deaths and participate in Child Death Review teams.
- Work jointly with law enforcement on applicable cases.

**3. Biological Sample Collection**

- Demonstrate knowledge and proficiency in collecting biological specimens for toxicology.
- Ensure appropriate sampling in suspected overdose, accident, or unclear natural deaths.
- Utilize training and kits provided by the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences (ADFS).

**4. ADFS ESR Registration**

- Maintain active registration with the ADFS Evidence Submission & Reporting (ESR) system.
- Utilize ESR for submission of specimens and retrieval of toxicology and autopsy reports.

**5. Death Certification (EDRS)**

- Maintain access to the Alabama Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS).
- Complete required ADPH training and certification.
- File death certificates within 48 hours in accordance with §22-9A-14.

## 6. Reporting & Documentation

- Maintain complete, accurate, and legally compliant investigative records. (§36-12-20)
- Issue death certificates only after appropriate review. (§11-5-35)
- Process cremation permits promptly.
- Utilize electronic case reporting systems when available.

## 7. Collaboration & Oversight

- Maintain active working relationships with county officials, District Attorney, law enforcement, ADFS, and ADPH.
- Support participation in state reporting systems (e.g., SUDORS, AVDRS, MDR).
- Coordinate with ADFS for examinations and toxicology services as appropriate.

## 8. Ethical & Professional Conduct

- Perform duties with integrity, impartiality, and confidentiality.
- Avoid conflicts of interest.
- Report public health concerns promptly to appropriate authorities.
- File annual Statement of Economic Interests. (§36-25-14)

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### Professional Development (Recommended)

Membership in the Alabama Coroners Association is encouraged to support training, collaboration, and professional standards across the state.

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### Purpose Statement

These standards are intended to promote consistency, professionalism, and excellence in medicolegal death investigation across Alabama. This document will be reviewed periodically and updated as needed.