

**CORONER POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL**  
**Fresno County Public Administrator/Coroner/ Public Guardian**

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ESTATE OF THE DECEASED FROM THE PERSON OF THE DECEASED OR FROM THE PREMISES, PRIOR TO THE ARRIVAL OF THE CORONER OR WITHOUT HIS PERMISSION.

At the scene of any death, when it is immediately apparent or where it has not been previously recognized and the Coroner's examination reveals that police investigation or criminal prosecution may ensue, the Coroner shall not further willfully disturb the body or any related evidence until the law enforcement agency has had reasonable opportunity to respond to the scene, if their purposes so require and they so request.

GOVERNMENT CODE #27491.4: For purposes of inquiry, the Coroner shall, within 24 hours, or, as soon as feasible thereafter, where the suspected cause of death is Sudden Infant Death Syndrome—and in all other cases, the Coroner may, in his discretion, take possession of the body, which shall include the authority to exhume such body, order it to be placed in a convenient place, and have or cause to be made a post-mortem examination or autopsy, and have or cause to be made an analysis of the stomach, stomach contents, blood, organs, fluids, or tissues of the body. The detailed medical findings resulting from an inspection of the body or autopsy by an examining physician shall be either reduced to writing or permanently preserved on recording discs or other similar recording media, shall include all positive and negative findings pertinent to establishing the cause of death in accordance with medico-legal practice and this, along with the written opinions and conclusions of the examining physician, shall be included in the Coroner's record of death. He shall have the right to retain only such things as are necessary for the purpose of the inquiry.