

---

SENATE BILL 6037

---

State of Washington                      62nd Legislature                      2012 Regular Session

By Senators Delvin, Carrell, Honeyford, and Kline

Read first time 01/09/12. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1            AN ACT Relating to access to reports and records of autopsies and  
2 postmortems; and amending RCW 68.50.105.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 68.50.105 and 2011 c 61 s 1 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6            (1) Reports and records of autopsies or postmortems shall be  
7 confidential, except that the following persons may examine and obtain  
8 copies of any such report or record: The personal representative of  
9 the decedent as defined in RCW 11.02.005, any family member, the  
10 attending physician or advanced registered nurse practitioner, the  
11 prosecuting attorney or law enforcement agencies having jurisdiction,  
12 public health officials, the department of labor and industries in  
13 cases in which it has an interest under RCW 68.50.103, or the secretary  
14 of the department of social and health services or his or her designee  
15 in cases being reviewed under RCW 74.13.640.

16            The coroner, the medical examiner, or the attending physician  
17 shall, upon request, meet with the family of the decedent to discuss  
18 the findings of the autopsy or postmortem. For the purposes of this  
19 section, the term "family" means the surviving spouse, state registered

1 domestic partner, or any child, parent, grandparent, grandchild,  
2 brother, or sister of the decedent, or any person who was guardian of  
3 the decedent at the time of death.

4 (2) The right to examine and obtain an autopsy or postmortem report  
5 or record or to meet and discuss the findings of the autopsy or record  
6 is revoked for any person who has plead guilty to or been found guilty  
7 of a crime that lead to or caused the decedent's death.

--- END ---