



**FORENSIC PATHOLOGY
NOTICE OF RETAINED ORGAN(S) FOLLOWING AUTOPSY**

In some cases, it is necessary for the forensic pathologist to retain one or more whole organs so that special tests or examinations may be conducted to determine or document the cause, manner, and circumstances of death. Sometimes, the organ(s) (such as brain, heart, eyes, or another organ) may need to be kept even though the deceased body has been released to the funeral home. When this occurs, the funeral and burial or cremation may occur before the forensic pathologist completes the examination of the retained organ(s). In such cases, the forensic pathologist will retain the organ(s) for a minimum of 90 days from the date of autopsy. If no request is made by the next-of-kin to obtain the organ(s), a disposition will then be made by the forensic pathologist. **It is the responsibility of the legal next-of-kin to contact Sparrow Forensic Pathology at 517-364-2561 if return of the organ(s) is desired.** In such cases, return can be coordinated with the funeral director who handled the funeral arrangements. Organs will not be released directly to family. Organs are retained only when necessary to facilitate proper examination.

In the event an organ is retained, it will be listed below. The organ(s) will be held for a minimum of 90 days following release of the final autopsy report. If the legal next-of-kin desire the organ(s) be returned, it should be coordinated through the funeral director. If no request is made by the family for return of retained organ(s), a disposition in accordance with legal and professional standards will be made sometime after the 90-day period.

Retained Organ(s): _____

Pathologist: _____
 Printed Name Signature Date

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