

NAME Position Statement re Forensic Autopsy Performance Standards

As part of its mission statement, the National Association of Medical Examiners has committed to developing and promoting forensic autopsy standards. The National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) published its first Forensic Autopsy Performance Standards in 2005 and regularly reviews and updates its Standards.

In 2009 the National Academies of Science published *Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward*. *Strengthening Forensic Science...* called for improving the quality of forensic science practice of all types, in part by having a consortium of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, government laboratories, universities, and private laboratories establish practice standards for forensic science disciplines (Recommendation 6). Recommendation 6 led to the development of the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC). NAME is proud to be a charter organization of OSAC.

NAME works to establish and maintain excellent practice in forensic pathology. NAME desires excellent practice in all aspects of forensic science, as excellent practice provides the most accurate and fair determinations for use in legal matters. As shown by NAME's early adoption of performance standards for forensic autopsies and as a charter organization of OSAC, NAME endorses the concept of developing and adopting strong standards for excellent practice in all areas of forensic science.