

1 SENATE BILL 352

2 **57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Katy M. Duhigg

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO MEDICAL INVESTIGATIONS; PROVIDING THAT PHOTOGRAPHIC
12 IMAGES TAKEN BY A STATE, DISTRICT OR DEPUTY MEDICAL
13 INVESTIGATOR ARE CONFIDENTIAL, ARE NOT PUBLIC RECORDS AND SHALL
14 NOT BE ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC OTHER THAN FOR USE OR POTENTIAL
15 USE IN A CIVIL OR CRIMINAL PROCEEDING.

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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

18 SECTION 1. Section 24-11-7 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1961,
19 Chapter 91, Section 4, as amended) is amended to read:

20 "24-11-7. EXAMINATION--AUTOPSY--INQUEST.--If the deceased
21 is unidentified, the state, district or deputy medical
22 investigator may order the body fingerprinted and photographed.
23 When the state, district or deputy medical investigator
24 suspects a death was caused by a criminal act or omission or if
25 the cause of death is obscure, ~~he~~ the medical investigator

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1 shall order an autopsy performed by a qualified pathologist
2 certified by the state board of medical examiners who shall
3 record every fact found in the examination tending to show the
4 identity and condition of the body and the time, manner and
5 cause of death. Photographic images taken by a state, district
6 or deputy medical investigator are confidential, are not public
7 records and shall not be accessible to the public other than
8 for use or potential use in a civil or criminal proceeding.

9 The pathologist shall sign the report under oath and deliver it
10 to the state, district or deputy medical investigator within a
11 reasonable time. The state, district or deputy medical
12 investigator may take the testimony of the pathologist and any
13 other persons, and this testimony, combined with the written
14 report of the pathologist, constitutes an inquest."

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