

ENROLLED SENATE  
BILL NO. 250

By: Marlatt, Ballenger,  
Garrison, Johnson  
(Constance), Paddack,  
Shortey, Brinkley and David  
of the Senate

and

Armes, Billy, Hilliard,  
Cockroft, McAffrey, Tibbs,  
Cox, Condit, Ritze, Scott,  
Sherrer, Roan, Hoskin,  
Roberts (Dustin) and  
Sanders of the House

An Act relating to the Chief Medical Examiner;  
creating the Chanda Turner Reform Act; providing  
short title; amending 63 O.S. 2001, Section 942,  
which relates to reports of findings; providing for  
the distribution of copies of reports; permitting  
certain appeal; providing for certain appeals  
process; requiring certain hearing; directing the  
court to make certain order in specified  
circumstance; permitting the appeal of certain  
reports made prior to specified date; providing for  
codification; providing for noncodification; and  
providing an effective date.

SUBJECT: Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be  
codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Chanda Turner  
Reform Act".

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2001, Section 942, is amended to read as follows:

Section 942. A. Upon completion of ~~his~~ an investigation, the medical examiner shall reduce his or her findings to writing upon the form supplied to ~~him~~ the medical examiner which shall be promptly sent to the Chief Medical Examiner by mail.

B. Copies of reports shall be furnished by the Chief Medical Examiner to investigating agencies having official interest therein. Copies of reports shall also be furnished to the spouse of the deceased or any person within one degree of consanguinity of the deceased upon request and within five (5) business days of the request once the cause and manner of death have been determined and the death certificate has been issued.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 942a of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The spouse of the deceased or any person within one degree of consanguinity of the deceased may appeal the findings of the medical examiner to the district court of Oklahoma County under a petition for judicial review within two (2) years from the completion of the report. Such appeal shall be made in writing, shall state the nature and reasons for the appeal, and shall be supported by affidavit. The burden of proof shall be on the petitioner to establish by a preponderance of the evidence that the death certificate is in error. The petitioner shall notify the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in writing upon filing the petition for judicial review. No jury shall be impaneled and no monetary damages shall be awarded under a cause of action filed pursuant to this subsection.

B. The court shall conduct an evidentiary hearing. Should the court find that the findings of the medical examiner are erroneous, the court shall immediately order the Chief Medical Examiner to correct the report and transmit the appropriate paperwork to the State Department of Health for the correction of the death certificate.

C. Reports of the medical examiner made prior to November 1, 2011, may be appealed by the spouse of the deceased or any person within one degree of consanguinity of the deceased under the procedures specified in subsection A of this section. Appeals made pursuant to this subsection shall be filed no later than November 1, 2013.

SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 2011.

Passed the Senate the 17th day of May, 2011.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 18th day of May, 2011.

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Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives