

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE
2 BILL NO. 3901

By: Hefner, Roe, West (Josh),
and McCane of the House

3 and

4 Stanley of the Senate

5
6
7 [psychological autopsy - Commissioner of Health -
8 psychological autopsy examiner - pilot
9 psychological autopsy service - report - exchange
10 of information - rules - State Department of Health
11 - codification - effective date]

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

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SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified

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in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 956 of Title 63, unless there is
17 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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A. As used in this act:

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1. "Psychological autopsy" means a retrospective investigative

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method of gathering data to reconstruct the mental state,

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perspectives, and motivations of a deceased person, often used for

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equivocal deaths like suicide, to help understand an individual's

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final days and possible influences in his or her death; and

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1 2. "Psychological autopsy examiner" means a mental health
2 professional who conducts psychological autopsies to help determine
3 systemic influences in cases of death that are ambiguous, including,
4 but not limited to, suicide.

5 B. The Commissioner of Health shall appoint a full-time
6 psychological examiner to establish a pilot psychological autopsy
7 service.

8 C. An annual progress report covering discipline appropriate
9 plans based upon best practices, targets, and demonstrable data
10 along with any deliverables such as operating manuals shall be
11 submitted to the Commissioner to be included in his or her annual
12 report.

13 D. The pilot program shall terminate no later than November 1,
14 2031, before which time a recommendation for permanency or closing
15 of the service shall be made by the State Board of Health.

16 E. The psychological autopsy examiner may coordinate with the
17 Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and the
18 Office of the Chief Medical Examiner to share data, share results,
19 and establish protocols for psychological autopsies. Other
20 appropriate flows of information may be established to ensure
21 psychological autopsy results inform suicide prevention or policy
22 decision-making.

