

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

3 HOUSE BILL 3901

By: Hefner

7 AS INTRODUCED

8 An Act relating to psychological autopsy; defining
9 terms; authorizing the Commissioner of Health to
10 appoint a psychological autopsy examiner; creating
11 pilot psychological autopsy service; directing report
12 be submitted to the Commissioner of Health; providing
for exchange of information; providing for the
promulgation of rules by the State Department of
Health; providing for codification; and providing an
effective date.

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

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

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

20 A. As used in this act:

21 1. "Psychological autopsy" means a retrospective investigative
22 method of gathering data to reconstruct the mental state,
23 perspectives, and motivations of a deceased person, often used for

1 equivocal deaths like suicide, to help understand an individual's
2 final days and possible influences in his or her death; and
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4 2. "Psychological autopsy examiner" means a mental health
5 professional who conducts psychological autopsies to help determine
6 systemic influences in cases of death that are ambiguous, including,
but not limited to, suicide.

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8 B. The Commissioner of Health shall appoint a full-time
9 psychological examiner to establish a pilot psychological autopsy
service.

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

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16 D. The pilot program shall terminate no later than November 1,
17 2031, before which time a recommendation for permanency or closing
of the service shall be made by the State Board of Health.

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

1 F. The State Department of Health may promulgate rules
2 necessary to accomplish the goals of the pilot psychological autopsy
3 service.

4 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.

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