

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

HOUSE BILL 3901

By: Hefner

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to psychological autopsy; defining terms; authorizing the Commissioner of Health to appoint a psychological autopsy examiner; creating pilot psychological autopsy service; directing report 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.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 956 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. As used in this act:

1. "Psychological autopsy" means a retrospective investigative method of gathering data to reconstruct the mental state, 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

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

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

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

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

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