


STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
D E P A R T M E N T O F H E A L T H



Safe and Healthy Lives in Safe and Healthy Communities

Rhode Island Department of Health
Office of the State Medical Examiner

Rhode Island General Law, Chapter 23-4-6 establishes the state medical examiners commission. The twelve-member commission has the responsibility to hear and determine appeals to decisions by chief medical examiners regarding the undertaking of investigations, inquests, and autopsies, and shall advise the chief medical examiner on matters of public concern. The director of health and the attorney general shall be the chairperson and vice chairperson, respectively, of the commission. The chief medical examiner of the office of state medical examiners shall serve as the executive secretary of the commission.

The Medical Examiners Commission is under organizational restructuring. The last formal meeting was June 2005 prior to the passage of the Separation of Powers Legislation. The Chief Medical Examiner has commenced the process of identifying candidates to serve on the Commission from the Rhode Island Bar Association, Rhode Island Medical Society, Rhode Island Society of Pathologists, The Funeral Directors' Association and Brown University as well as individuals from agencies not specified in the Medical Examiner Commission legislation but whose input would be valued from a public health standpoint. All candidates for the commission will submit their resumes and ethics statements to the Governor who will request Advice and Consent from the Senate on each nominee.

Submitted by

Thomas Gilson, MD
Chief Medical Examiner.