

<p><b>Clinical Autopsy Service</b></p>	<p>The Autopsy Service performs autopsies on patients who die at the Massachusetts General Hospital and patients who die outside of the hospital but have had some MGH care. The service also performs autopsies for patients at the Cambridge Hospital, several community hospitals, and occasionally on patients from other hospitals. The service performs approximately 350 cases per year. This constitutes approximately 13% of hospital deaths.</p>
<p><b>Perinatal Autopsy Service</b></p>	<p>The perinatal autopsy service, under the direction of Dr. Drucilla Roberts, includes the full range of perinatal pathology services, including placental pathology, perinatal neuropathology, and cytogenetics. Perinatal autopsies include fetal and pediatric autopsies from 20 weeks gestational age to 3 months of life. The service performs approximately 50 perinatal autopsies per year, generally providing each resident with experience of 5-10 perinatal autopsies during their 3-5 year training period.</p> <p>The perinatal autopsy service also performs all fetopsies (intact fetal abortal examinations less than 24 weeks gestational age, generally considered as surgical specimens) using the same complete autopsy procedure. Most perinatal autopsies are presented to clinical conferences including pediatric, obstetric and surgical services.</p>
<p><b>AUTOPSY PERMISSION</b></p>	<p>The Medical Examiner must be notified of all medico-legal deaths as defined on Report of Death. Permission for autopsy for other reasons may be granted by the representative of the deceased in the following order:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Health Care Proxy</b></li> <li><b>2. Spouse</b></li> <li><b>3. Adult Child</b></li> <li><b>4. Parent</b></li> <li><b>5. Adult sibling</b></li> <li><b>6. Adult Grandchild</b></li> <li><b>7. Grandparent</b></li> <li><b>8. “an adult who exhibited special care and concern for the decedent”</b></li> <li><b>9. Person acting as a guardian at the time of death</b></li> <li><b>10. Any other person having authority to dispose of the body</b></li> </ol> <p>Permission for post mortem examination must be obtained by the physician and recorded on the Report of Death form. If the person granting permission is not present, such permission shall be received by the physician by telephone and witnessed by a third party who has been requested to listen to the conversation.</p>