



Republika ng Pilipinas  
**KAGAWARAN NG KATARUNGAN**  
*Department of Justice*  
*Manila*

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. **013**

**TO : ALL REGIONAL STATE PROSECUTORS,  
PROVINCIAL AND CITY PROSECUTORS AND THEIR ASSISTANTS,  
STATE PROSECUTORS AND PROSECUTION ATTORNEYS**

**SUBJECT : REQUIREMENT OF MANDATORY AUTOPSY FOR VICTIMS OF  
SUSPICIOUS OR VIOLENT DEATHS**

**DATE : FEB 20 2023**

**WHEREAS**, under Section 95, Pars. B(2) and B(4) of Presidential Decree No. 856, otherwise known as the *Code on Sanitation of the Philippines*, provincial and city prosecutors may order the autopsy of the remains of the victim;

**WHEREAS**, in 2002, the Department of Justice (Department) issued *Department Circular No. 55* enjoining all regional state prosecutors, provincial and city prosecutors and their assistants, state prosecutors, and prosecution attorneys to order the conduct of autopsy on the body of a child who may have died under suspicious or abuse-related circumstances, in pursuit of the policy of the government to protect children from all forms of abuse, cruelty, neglect, and discrimination;

**WHEREAS**, recently, the Philippine National Police (PNP) has pushed for legislation to make autopsies mandatory in all cases of death under suspicious or violent circumstances;

**WHEREAS**, in order to aid in the proper prosecution of crime and to promote public good, there is now the necessity of conducting autopsy on the body of any person who died under suspicious or violent circumstances;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in the interest of justice and pursuant to existing laws, and for a more effective, efficient and pro-active dispensation of justice, all prosecutors handling cases involving persons who died under suspicious or violent circumstances are hereby enjoined to order the conduct of automatic autopsy on the remains of the victim if no such autopsy has yet been conducted, except in cases where the religion of the victim/s and other similar justifiable grounds explicitly prevent the same.

Strict compliance is hereby enjoined.

  
**JESUS CRISPIN C. REMULLA**  
*Secretary*

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