Retention Table

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ITEM	Natural	Accident	Suicide	Homicide	Undetermined
Autopsy Toxicology Specimens	Retain 2 years or indefinitely per pathologist request			Retain 10 years + REVIEW	Retain 10 years + REVIEW
Bloodstain, other for DNA	Retain Indefinitely				
Wet Fixed Tissue	Retain 2 years			Retain 5 years + REVIEW	Retain 5 years + REVIEW
Organs	Retain as designated by pathologist				
Tissue Blocks	Retain indefinitely				
Histology Slides	Retain indefinitely				
Clothing	Release to F.H. with body or release directly to NOK [1,2]			Release to L.E.	Release to L.E. / F.H. as directed by L.E.
Property	Release to F.H. with body or release directly to NOK [2]			Release to L.E. / F.H. as directed by L.E.	Release to L.E. / F.H. as directed by L.E.
Evidence Collected	Retain 2 years			Retain 2 years	Retain 2 years
Medications	Retain 3 months[3]				
Firearms		Released to law enforcement agency			
Ammunition	Retained 2 months and then destroyed[4]				

[1]Soiled or fouled clothing may be discarded once thoroughly examined for property.

[2]Certain cases, not classified as homicide or undetermined (eg. pedestrian-automobile), may necessitate transfer of clothing/property to law enforcement. Safety equipment (helmets, harnesses, etc.) or other items not immediately of law enforcement interest may be retained for one year and then discarded. Next-of-kin should be notified of the retention of items in order to allow them to be obtained prior to disposal.

[3]Medications may be retained indefinitely per pathologist request. In rare instances, next-of-kin (NOK) request our office to retain medications for potential legal action. In these cases the medications will be retained for an additional, but limited, amount of time and will be made available for examination at our office by the NOK's legal representative. Prescription medications are not released to NOK.

[4]Destruction of ammunition is generally performed by releasing it to the local sheriff's office