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SNOHOMISH COUNTY  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE

SEP 20 1983<sup>519</sup> Coroner:108



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COUNTY COUNCIL  
Snohomish County, Washington

W.T. \_\_\_\_\_ K.B. \_\_\_\_\_  
T.C. \_\_\_\_\_ S.W. \_\_\_\_\_  
G.H. \_\_\_\_\_ D.J. \_\_\_\_\_

ORDINANCE NO. 83-104  
RELATING TO THE SNOHOMISH COUNTY CORONER;  
GRANTING THE POWER TO SUBPOENA MEDICAL RECORDS  
FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF DEATHS: ADDING A NEW  
SECTION TO SNOHOMISH COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 7.56

BE IT ORDAINED:

NEW SECTION, SECTION 1. A new section is added to  
Snohomish County Code Chapter 7.56 as follows:

7.56.035 Subpoena Power Granted

The office of Snohomish County Coroner is hereby granted the power and authority to issue subpoenas, including subpoenas duces tecum, to compel the production of medical and dental records, and such other documents are are necessary to the full investigation of any case under the jurisdiction of the office of the Coroner, from any person, organization or other entity in possession of such records or documents. The power to subpoena medical and dental records shall be vested in the Coroner or his/her agent and shall not be limited to cases in which an inquest will be held.

NEW SECTION, SECTION 2. A new section is added to  
Snohomish County Code Chapter 7.56 as follows:

7.56.036 Enforcement

- (1) Subpoenas issued by the Coroner shall be enforceable through the Superior Court for Snohomish County.
- (2) In case of refusal to obey a subpoena the Coroner may invoke the aid of the Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney who shall apply to the court for an order or other appropriate action necessary to secure enforcement of the subpoena.
- (3) Punishment for contempt for failure to comply with a subpoena issued by the Coroner pursuant to the investigatory functions of said office shall be limited to a fine not exceeding twenty-five dollars or imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding two days.

NEW SECTION, SECTION 3. A new section is added to Snohomish County Code Chapter 7.56 as follows:

7.56.050 Severability

Should any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this chapter be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, that determination shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions.

PASSED this 14 day of September, 1983.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL  
Snohomish County, Washington

Donald A. Butler  
Chairperson (Acting)

Approved as to Form:

And J. Kadee  
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

ATTEST:

Ellie Snyder  
Clerk of Council

- (  ) APPROVED
- (  ) VETOED
- (  ) EMERGENCY

DATE: 9/23/83  
[Signature]  
County Executive

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