

CORONER

Title 12, Chapter 4, Alabama Code

Sec. 54.--A coroner for each county shall be elected by the qualified voters thereof, who holds office for four years from the first Monday after the second Tuesday in January next after his election, and until his successor is elected and qualified.

Sec. 55.--Vacancies in the office of coroner are filled by appointment of the governor, and the person appointed holds office for the unexpired term, and until his successor is elected and qualified.

Sec. 56.--Before entering on the duties of his office the coroner must give bond as required by law.

Title 41, Sec. 93.--The official bond of the coroner shall in no case be less than one thousand dollars.

Title 41, Sec. 95.--All bonds provided for in this article may be made by a surety company or surety companies authorized by their charters to make such bonds provided they are qualified to do business in this state or may be made with individual sureties or banks or other corporations qualified to do business in this state and authorized under their charters to make such bonds.

Title 41, Sec. 96.--The premiums on all bonds provided for in this article, when made by surety companies, shall be paid by the respective counties out of the general funds of said county....

Sec. 57.--It is the general duty of the coroner to hold inquests, and perform other duties as required by law.

Title 15, Sec. 76.--When a coroner has been informed that a person has been killed, or suddenly died under such circumstances as to afford a reasonable ground for belief that such death has been occasioned by the act of another by unlawful means, he must forthwith make inquiry of the facts and circumstances of such death by taking the sworn statement in writing of the witnesses having personal knowledge thereof, and submit the same to a judge of a court of record or a solicitor; and if, upon such preliminary inquiry the judge or solicitor is satisfied from the evidence that there is reasonable ground for believing that such death has been occasioned by the act of another, by unlawful means, he must direct the coroner to forthwith summon a jury of six discreet householders of the county to appear before him forthwith at a specified place and inquire into the cause of such death, but no person shall be liable to serve as a juror more than one time during any one year, and no person shall be paid compensation for services as a juror on more than one inquest during any one year.

Title 15, Sec. 77.-- When five or more of the jurors appear, they must be sworn to inquire who the person was, and when, where, and by what means he came to his death; and to render a true verdict thereon, according to the evidence offered them, or arising from the inspection of the body.

Title 15, Sec. 77.--The coroner may issue subpoenas for witnesses returnable forthwith, or at such time and place as he may appoint; he must summon and examine as a witness any person who in his opinion or that of any of the jury, has any knowledge of the facts; he may also summon as a witness a surgeon or physician who must, in the presence of the jury, inspect the body, and give a professional opinion as to the cause of death; when a coroner has been formed that a person is dead in the county, and that said person died without being attended or examined by a legally qualified physician, the coroner shall forthwith proceed to the place where the dead person is lying, and examine the dead body to ascertain the cause of death, and report same in the same manner as inquests are reported; when the coroner is unable to determine the cause of death, he may summon any physician or surgeon, who shall make an external post-mortem examination of the dead body, and report his opinion of the cause of death to the coroner in writing; if the surgeon or physician is unable to determine the cause of death from an external post-mortem examination, and the coroner has reasonable cause to believe that deceased came to his or her death by unlawful means, the coroner may in such cases order any physician or surgeon to perform an autopsy or internal examination on the dead body, and report the findings of said autopsy to the coroner in writing.

Title 15, Section 79.--The sheriff or any constable must serve the subpoenas, or they may be served by the coroner; and if any witness, being subpoenaed, fails to attend, the coroner must indorse on the subpoena his default, sign his name thereto, and return the same to the clerk of the circuit court of the county, within five days thereafter; and such witness must be proceeded against in such court, in the name of the state, as if he were a defaulter therein; the indorsement of the coroner being presumptive evidence of the default.

Title 15, Section 80.--Any witness who refuses to answer any question in relation to the cause of such death, except on the ground that it may criminate himself, is guilty of a misdemeanor, and must be committed to jail by the coroner, unless he gives bail in the sum of five hundred dollars, to appear at the circuit court and answer such offense; and, on conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than two hundred nor more than five hundred dollars, and may be imprisoned not exceeding three months.

Title 15, Section 81.--Coroners shall have the right to administer oaths to persons on preliminary examinations provided for by this chapter.

Title 15, Section 82.--After inspecting the body and hearing the evidence, the jury must render their verdict, and certify it by an inquisition in writing signed by them, setting forth who the person is, and when, where, and by what means he came to his death; and, if the death was occasioned by the act of another, by unlawful means, who is guilty thereof; and if the person, means, or manner of his death, or the person by whose act he came to his death, are not discovered by the evidence, the inquisition must so state, and if there is no evidence tending to show that the deceased came to his death by the unlawful act of another, the inquisition must also state that fact.

Title 15, Section 83.-- The inquisition thus taken must be returned by the coroner forthwith, together with the written statement under oath taken by him on the preliminary investigation, to the clerk of the circuit court of the county; and the coroner must also require all the material witnesses to enter into an undertaking to appear at the circuit court, if in session, and if not, at the next session thereof, and may require surety to such undertaking; and, on the failure of a witness to enter therein, may commit him until he enters into the same.

Title 15, Section 84.--If the jury find that the deceased came to his death by the act of another, by unlawful means, the coroner may issue a warrant of arrest for such person, which may be executed in the same manner as provided in chapter 6 of this title, and the person, when arrested, must be brought before a magistrate of the county in which the inquest was held, who must proceed to examine the charge, and commit, bail, or discharge the defendant, as upon a warrant of arrest under the provisions of such chapter.

Title 15, Section 123.-- A warrant of arrest is an order in writing, issued and signed by a magistrate [in the terms of Title 15, Section 84, above, the issuing and signing officer would be the coroner], stating the substance of the complaint, directed to a proper officer, and commanding him to arrest the defendant; and such warrant must designate the name of the defendant, if known, but if it state that the name is unknown to the magistrate [coroner], then no name need be inserted. It must also state the offense by name, or so that it can be clearly inferred; the county in which it was issued must appear from some part of the warrant; and the warrant must be signed by the magistrate, with his name and initials of office, or the same must in some way appear from the warrant. It must be directed "to any lawful officer of the state," and if executed by any lawful officer, having authority to execute it, it is valid, without regard to its direction. It may be, in substance, as follows:

The State of Alabama
Lowndes County

To any lawful officer of the state:

Complaint on oath having been made before me that the offense of (designating or describing it) has been committed, and accusing O.D. thereof, you are, therefore, commanded forthwith to arrest C.D., and bring him before me.

Dated the day of 19..

(Signed) E.R., Coroner

Title 15, Section 85.-- The coroner must, within thirty days after an inquest on a dead body, deliver to the county treasurer any money or other property which may be found on the body, unless claimed in the meantime by the legal representatives of the deceased; if he fails to do so, the treasurer may proceed against him for the amount or value thereof, on ten days' notice to him and his sureties, or against any of them served therewith, and recover the same, with twenty percent damages on the amount or value thereof.

Title 15, Section 86.--Upon the receipt of the money by the treasurer he must place it to the credit of the county. If it is other property, he must, within three months, sell it at the courthouse of the county,

at public auction, upon reasonable public notice, and must, in like manner, place the proceeds to the credit of the county.

Title 15, Section 87.-- If such money in the treasury is demanded in six years by the legal representatives of the deceased, the treasurer must pay it to them, after deducting the fees of the coroner, expenses of sale, and five percent on the balance for the treasurer; or it may be paid at any time thereafter upon the order of the county commissioners.

Title 15, Section 88.-- Any surgeon or physician who being duly summoned by the coroner, makes a post-mortem examination and gives a professional opinion thereon, is entitled to receive five dollars with an additional fee of ten cents for each mile he may be compelled to travel to make such examination, and said fee shall be paid out of the county treasury upon certificate of the coroner, certifying that such services have been rendered; when any physician or surgeon, is summoned by the coroner to perform an autopsy or internal examination, the physician or surgeon performing said autopsy or internal examination, shall be entitled to receive the sum of twenty-five dollars, to be paid out of the county treasury upon certificate of the coroner that such service has been rendered; when an autopsy or internal examination has been performed, the physician or surgeon shall not be paid the five dollars, as provided for an external post-mortem examination, but the sum of twenty-five dollars herein provided for shall be the entire amount received for such service. Provided that if the estate of the deceased is solvent the amount herein paid by the county shall be recovered from the estate of the deceased.

Title 15, Section 89.-- If the coroner is absent from the county, or is unable to act, any justice of the peace may hold an inquest on the body of any deceased person, under the rules and regulations in this chapter prescribed; and is entitled to the same compensation for his services that is by law allowed to the coroner.

Title 12, Section 58.--The coroner is the keeper of the jail when the sheriff is imprisoned.

Title 12, Section 59.--The coroner must discharge the duties of the sheriff:

When the office of sheriff is vacant, and until his successor is qualified;

when the sheriff is imprisoned;

in cases to which the sheriff is a party;

in such cases as he is directed by the judge of probate.

Title 12, Section 60.-- When the sheriff is interested in any cause or proceeding, such interest not appearing on the face thereof, the judge of probate may, on a proper showing by affidavit, direct the coroner to execute the summons, writ, or other process, in such cause or proceeding.

Title 12, Section 61.-- The validity of the coroner's official acts cannot be questioned upon the ground that the process is directed to any sheriff, or that it does not show a necessity for the coroner to act, or other ground going to the form of the process.

Title 12, Section 62.-- When the coroner is required to discharge the duties of sheriff, the judge of probate may, in his discretion, require him to give an additional bond. If the coroner fails, for ten days after such requisition, to give such additional bond, his office is vacated, and the judge of probate must certify the vacancy to the governor.

Title 12, Section 63.-- For the failure to perform any duty, or the improper or neglectful performance of such duty, or for any wrongful act committed under color of office by the coroner, or the special coroner, while discharging the duties of sheriff, such coroner and his sureties, and such special coroner, are liable to the same penalties, forfeitures and judgments given by law against sheriffs in like cases, to and upon the same proceedings and remedies as are given by law against sheriffs and their sureties.

Title 12, Section 64.--The judge of probate has authority to appoint a special coroner:

When the coroner has not qualified or the office is vacant, and the emergency requires such officer;

when the coroner is absent from the county, having no deputy therein;

when the coroner is imprisoned;

when the sheriff and coroner are both parties, or both interested.

Title 12, Section 65.-- A special coroner must discharge the duties of sheriff in such cases as the coroner is required, and also when the sheriff and coroner are imprisoned, and, on the direction of the judge of probate, when they are both parties, or both interested.

Title 12, Section 65.--The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to any county in which the coroner, or other person performing the duties of coroner, is governed by a local law, or a law the application of which is determined by the population of the county,

in so far as the same are in conflict herewith.

FEEES AND COSTS

Title 11

Section 6.--No sheriff, coroner, or constable, shall collect or receive commissions on costs taxed in any execution put in his hands. The commissions allowed by law shall be collected or received only on the principal, damages and interest of the execution.

Section 35.--Sheriffs and coroners are not entitled to full commissions until after actual levy of execution on property of the defendant, and the money made or paid to the plaintiff in execution and then only on the amount actually collected or paid.

Section 36.-- When the sheriff or coroner has levied execution, and before sale it is stayed by order of the plaintiff, the officer so levying must receive only half commissions.

Section 37.--The coroner is entitled to receive, for services rendered by him in civil cases, the same fees as are allowed to sheriffs for like services.

Section 94.-- The coroner is entitled to the following fees:

For going to and returning from the place where he holds an inquest, six cents per each mile traveled.

For holding an inquest, when ordered by a judge of a court of record or by the circuit or county solicitor, \$7.50.

For summoning jury on inquest, \$1.00.

For each subpoena, \$.25.

For each warrant of arrest, \$.50.

For each bond or undertaking returned to court, \$.50.

For investigation and certification of the cause of death when no jury is summoned or post mortem examination made by a physician or surgeon as provided in section 95 of this title, six cents for each mile traveled in going and returning, and seven dollars fifty cents, to be paid from the county treasury.

For money paid into the county treasury, when found on the body of a deceased person, five percent; but in no case more than \$7.50.

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In no event shall the coroner be entitled in any one year to fees exceeding in the aggregate twelve hundred dollars.

For all services performed by the coroner when discharging the duty of sheriff in cases authorized by law, he shall be entitled to the same fees that are allowed the sheriff for similar services.

Section 95.-- Fees for holding inquest shall be paid out of the county treasury, when the inquest has been held under the order of a judge of a court of record or circuit or county solicitor; and such fees must be also certified by the coroner to the clerk of the circuit court of the county, and must be taxed as costs against any person who is convicted for killing the person on whose body the inquest was held, and be collected like other costs in criminal cases; and, when collected in cases in which the county has paid the same, shall be paid to the county treasurer for the use of the county; and in other cases to the coroner. No fees shall be paid for an inquest when it is publicly known before the jury is summoned who caused the death of the deceased, or when the slayer has been arrested for the homicide; but in such case, if the immediate cause of the death is uncertain, a physician or surgeon may be summoned to make a post mortem examination, who shall give his opinion in writing as to the cause of the death, which must be returned by the coroner as inquests are returned by him, and such coroner, physician or surgeon shall be entitled to the same fee and mileage, to be paid in the same manner as for attending an inquest; such fees as accrue to coroners for services rendered by him in discharging duties of sheriff, must be taxed, collected, and paid in the same manner that sheriffs' fees for like services are taxed, collected and paid.

IMPEACHMENT

Title 41

Section 178.-- The following officers may be impeached and removed from office, to wit: Judges of circuit and probate courts, solicitors of the circuits, judges of the inferior courts from which an appeal may be taken direct to the supreme court; sheriffs, clerks of the circuit courts, tax collectors, tax assessors, county treasurers,

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coroners, justices of the peace, notaries public, constables, and all other state officers not named in section 173 of the Constitution, and all other county officers, and mayors and intendants of incorporated cities and towns in this state, for the following causes, to-wit: Wilful neglect of duty, corruption in office, incompetency or intemperance in the use of intoxicating liquors or narcotics to such an extent in view of the dignity of the office and importance of its duties as unfits the officer for the discharge of such duties, or any offense involving moral turpitude while in office, or committed under color thereof, or connected therewith.

The state officers named in section 173 of the Constitution are: goernor, lieutenant-governor, attorney-general, state auditor, secretary of state, state treasurer, superintendent of education, commissioner of agriculture and industries, and justices of the supreme court.

The reason for the exclusion of the state officers named in section 173 of the constitution from the purview of Title 41, Section 178, is that the officers named in the constitution must be impeached by the House of Representatives of Alabama, and the impeachment must be tried by the Senate of Alabama. Those officers named in Title 41, Section 178 may be impeached by any five qualified electors residing within their constituencies, whereupon the impeachment is tried by the Alabama Supreme Court.

Section 188.-- In all cases in which the sheriff is the party accused, all process relating to the cause shall be executed by the coroner of the county, and, if there is no coroner, then by such other person as may be appointed by the court, or a judge in vacation; and if the accused is the clerk of the court, then the court, or judge thereof, shall appoint a special clerk, who shall be some reliable and responsible person, and who shall perform and discharge all the duties of the office as to this particular case, under the direction of the court, or the judge thereof, until such case is finally determined, and shall be liable to all penalties prescribed by law for any misfeasance, or malfeasance or nonfeasance, in the discharge of the duties of such office.

Section 192.--The sheriff, coroner, or constable, to whom process is issued under the provisions of this article, shall perform all the duties as sheriffs are required to perform them; shall be liable to all the penalties to which sheriffs, in similar cases, are liable; and shall be entitled to the same fees as sheriffs are entitled to

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for similar services....

CIVIL RESPONSIBILITIES AND LIABILITIES OF SHERIFF

This is only a partial listing. It should be remembered that, when the sheriff's office is vacant, the coroner is responsible for the performance of all the functions of the sheriff:

Title 54, Section 24.-- When the office of sheriff is vacant, or the sheriff is incompetent to act, the coroner of the county must perform all the duties of sheriff of such county, under the penalties and liabilities imposed by law on sheriffs.

Title 7

Section 20.-- The following must be commenced within ten years:

...Motions and other actions against sheriffs, coroners, constables, and other public officers, for nonfeasance, misfeasance or malfeasance in office.

Nonfeasance is the neglect, by a public officer, to do what the law requires him to do. Misfeasance is the doing, by a public officer, of a lawful act in an unlawful manner. Malfeasance is the doing, by a public officer, of an unlawful act.

The ten years mentioned above begins running at the time of the act which gives rise to a cause of civil action against the official involved.

Section 21.-- The following must be commenced within six years:

...Motions and other actions against the sureties of any sheriff, coroner, constable, or any public officer, or actions against the sureties of executors, administrators, or guardians, for any nonfeasance, misfeasance, or malfeasance, whatsoever, of their principal; the time to be computed from the act done or omitted by their principal, which fixes liability of surety....

..."action" includes all formal proceedings in a court of justice attendant upon the demand of a right made by one person or party of another in such court, including an adjudication upon the right, and its enforcement or denial by the court." Alabama Supreme Court, Martin v. Tally, 72 Ala. 23

Section 343.--When the office of sheriff is vacant, and until his successor is qualified, or when the sheriff is imprisoned, or in cases in which the sheriff is a party, or is interested, or otherwise is incompetent to act, if such interest or cause appear on the face of the proceedings, the summons must be directed to and executed by the coroner; and if such interest or cause does not

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appear on the face of the proceedings, the coroner must execute the summons, though directed to the sheriff, if the judge of probate, on proper showing by affidavit, direct the execution thereof by the coroner; and when in such cases the coroner has not qualified, or when the office is vacant, or when the coroner is absent from the county having no deputy therein, or when the coroner is imprisoned, or when he is a party to or interested in the suit, the summons must be directed to and executed by a special coroner, to be appointed by the judge of probate.

The "summons" is a subpoena or court order requiring that a witness or one of the parties to a civil suit present himself or his records or some other item, in court, in connection with the suit.

Section 516.--When the office of sheriff is vacant, and until his successor qualifies, or when the sheriff is imprisoned, or in cases to which he is a party, or in cases in which he is interested, or for any legal cause is incompetent to act, if such interest or cause appears on the face of the proceedings, the execution must be directed to, and executed by, the coroner, or special coroner, as the case may be.

"Execution", as used above, means the enforcement of a court order (a writ) which entitles a creditor to take possession of the property or goods of one of his debtors.

Section 595.-- Judgment must be rendered for the plaintiff, on three days notice, against the sheriff, coroner, or other officer receiving or executing the writ in the following cases: For failing to return an execution, twenty percent on the judgment. For failing to pay over money collected upon an execution, on demand of the plaintiff, his agent or attorney, for the amount so collected, and five percent per month damages from the time such demand was made. For failing to make the money on an execution, which by due diligence, could have been made, for the amount of the execution, interest, and ten percent damages thereon. For fraudulently making a false return, for the amount of the execution, interest, and ten percent damages thereon. For failing to notify the plaintiff, his agent or attorney, of the collection of money by execution, for five percent per month on the amount collected from the time when the notice should have been given, not to exceed twenty-five dollars per month. For failing to indorse on an execution the true date of its delivery

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to him, for ten percent on the amount of the execution; and the officer is also responsible for any injury or loss which may arise from such omission. For failure to execute a summons, attachment or other mesne process, which by due diligence could have been executed, for a sum not less than fifty, nor more than five hundred dollars, to be ascertained by a jury; and this remedy shall not preclude the party injured from a resort to other legal modes of redress.

The "mesne" process referred to above means any intermediate court order--that is, any order issued by the court between the time of the filing of the action, and the time of the final settlement of the suit.

Section 596.-- Judgment must, in like manner, be rendered in favor of the defendant in execution against the sheriff or coroner, on three days' notice, in the following cases: For failure to pay over on demand any excess of money which may remain upon a sale under execution, after satisfaction thereof, and of the costs, for the amount of such excess, and five percent per month after demand. For failing to pay over on demand money paid or collected on an execution, the whole or any part of which is enjoined in chancery proceeding, for the amount so enjoined, and five percent per month on the amount from the time of demand. For failing to return an execution wholly or partially satisfied, for twenty-five percent on the amount paid.

Section 597.-- Judgment must in like manner, be rendered in favor of the clerk of the supreme court against the sheriff or coroner, on three days' notice, for failure to return an execution from that court, for making a false return thereon, for failing to make the money thereon, when by due diligence it could have been made, or for failing on demand to pay over money collected on execution, for the penalties herein prescribed for the same defaults on executions from the circuit court.

Section 598.-- On the trial of the motion by such clerk, a copy of the execution made and certified by him, with the return thereon, if any was made, or a statement that no return was made, if such be the fact, together with his certificate that the execution was received by the sheriff, or sent to him by mail, is evidence of the facts so certified, without producing a transcript of the record from the proceedings of the supreme court; and also pre-

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sumptive evidence that the writ was received by the sheriff, unless he states, under oath, in writing, that he never received the writ, or that he returned it according to law.

Section 599.-- Any officer who accepts or receives a substitute for any person drawn as a juror, or whom he is directed to summon as a juror, or who intentionally serves any other person than the one drawn as a juror, or whom he is directed to summon as a juror, must be fined fifty dollars, to be recovered on motion by the solicitor in the name of the state, in the circuit court of the county in which the offense is committed, on five days' notice; one-half of which shall be for the use of the county, and the other half for the use of the solicitor.

Section 600.-- Judgment must, in like manner, be summarily rendered in favor of the sheriff or coroner, in three days' notice of the pendency of the suit:

Against the obligors on bonds given to indemnify such officer for levying an execution or attachment, or for making sale of property so levied on or attached, after judgment against him for making such levy or sale, for the amount rendered against such officer, with interest from the date of judgment against him.

Against the deputy of the sheriff or coroner and his sureties, or either of them, for the amount of any judgment rendered against the sheriff or coroner for the default of such deputy, with interest from date of judgment against him.

Section 601.-- Judgment must, in like manner, be summarily rendered in favor of the sheriff, on three days' notice, against the judge of probate, for the amount of any fees received by him for such sheriff for the service of citations, notices, or other process in relation to estates of deceased persons or minors, which, on demand, have not been paid over, with five per cent per month from the time of such demand.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Title 14, Section 140.-- Any probate judge, clerk of a court of record, register of the circuit court, sheriff, coroner, tax collector

county treasurer, trustee of public schools, notary public, justice of the peace, constable, or other public officers who knowingly converts to his own use, or permits another to use any of the revenue of the state, or of any county thereof, or any money paid into his office, or received by him in his official capacity, is liable to indictment, and, on conviction, shall be punished as if he had stolen it;....

Title 15, Section 34.--It is the duty of the officer before whom such writ is returnable, in case of such refusal or neglect on the part of the person to whom it is directed, to proceed forthwith against him, by process of attachment, as for contempt, to compel obedience to the writ, and to punish him for such contempt; and when such attachment is issued against the sheriff, or his deputy, it may be directed to the coroner, or to any constable, and may be executed by such coroner, or constable.

The writ referred to in this section is the writ of habeas corpus. This is an order, by a court, directed to an officer of the law (a sheriff, jailer, police chief, etc.) ordering the officer to produce before the court the body of a person in his custody, and to show to the court the reason why the person is being kept in custody. Ordinarily the writ of habeas corpus is issued by a court when it has been shown to the court that there is reason to believe the officer is holding the person in custody without sufficient justification in law.

The purpose of this section is to provide some legal punishment for an officer who refuses to obey a writ of habeas corpus.

Title 13, Section 142.--Circuit courts, as to equity matters, have all the powers of enforcing the execution of process which heretofore appertained to chancery courts, and circuit judges, as to equity matters, may, when necessary appoint a special officer to execute process against any sheriff or coroner, or to perform any other special service.

Title 22, Section 26.--In the case of any death occurring without medical attendance, it shall be the duty of the undertaker, or other person to whose knowledge the death may come, to notify the local registrar of such death, and when so notified the local registrar shall, prior to the issuance of a burial permit, inform the county health officer, who shall immediately investigate and certify as to the cause of death; provided, that if the health

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officer has reason to believe that the death may have been due to an unlawful act or neglect, he shall then refer the case to the coroner or other proper officer for his investigation and certification. The coroner, or other proper officer whose duty it is to hold an inquest on the body of the deceased person and to make the certificate of death required for a burial permit, shall state in his certification the name of the deceased person and shall prepare the certificate of death required for a burial permit, shall state in his certification the name of the disease causing death, or if from external causes, the means of death; whether probably accidental, suicidal or homicidal; and shall in any case, furnish such information as may be required by the state registrar in order to properly classify the death. When there is no county health officer, and when there is no reason to believe the death to be due to an unlawful act or neglect, in such cases only, the local registrar is authorized to complete the certificate from the statement of relatives or other persons having adequate knowledge of the facts; provided, that when there is reason to believe the death is due to an unlawful act or neglect and there is no county health officer, the local registrar shall notify the coroner or other proper officer for his investigation and certification.

Title 36, Section 124.-- Every coroner or other official per-

forming like functions shall on or before the 10th day of each month report in writing to the director the death of any person within his jurisdiction during the preceding calendar month as the result of an accident involving a motor vehicle and the circumstances of each accident.

The "director" referred to above is the director of the Alabama Department of Public Safety.

Title 45, Section 178.-- In the event the department needs the service of a coroner, and there be not a coroner in the county, the judge of probate shall appoint a special coroner at the request of the department.

The "department" referred to above is the Alabama Department of Penal and Correctional Institutions.

Title 46, Section 57.-- Any sheriff, coroner, or deputy thereof or constable, who practices law in any court of this state, must, on conviction, be fined not less than one hundred dollars.