Tips for Completing

An Authorization for Post Mortem Examination

1. The two narrow lines to right of “with Brain Procurement for the VCU Brain Tissue Resource Facility” do not need to be filled with any information.

2. The line labeled “Next of Kin:” is signed by "the person who is entitled by law to control the disposition of the remains" and not the client himself. The hierarchy of who may dispose of the remains, and sign the consent form, is as follows:

- Agent with Durable Power of Attorney not excluding autopsy.
- Surviving Spouse (even if estranged).
- Adult son or daughter of the deceased
- Either parent of the deceased.
- An adult brother or sister.
- Other adult relative.
- The executor of the will, IF specifically authorized to dispose of the body

3. The line labeled “Physician:” is signed by the client’s Primary Care Physician.

4. The line labeled “Witness:” is signed by another adult who knows the “Next of Kin.”

5. The line labeled “Housestaff MD” is left blank.

6. The line labeled “Attending MD:” is left blank and will be signed by the Chair of Neurology. A signed copy will be forwarded to the family.