

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
Senator Thomas Umberg, Chair
2023-2024 Regular Session

SB 989 (Ashby)
Version: April 17, 2024
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Fiscal: Yes
Urgency: No
AWM

SUBJECT

Domestic violence: deaths

DIGEST

This bill modifies existing law enforcement investigation and training procedures, and access to coroner images, to assist law enforcement and families in uncovering domestic violence-related homicides in which the crime scene has been staged.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Domestic violence is endemic in the United States. Nearly half of all people in the United States report having experienced physical or sexual violence caused by, or having been stalked by, an intimate partner in their lifetimes. And all too frequently, intimate partner violence escalates to homicide: nearly half of all female homicide victims, 21 percent of transgender and nonbinary homicide victims, and 10 percent of male homicide victims are killed by intimate partners.

According to the author and sponsor of the bill, some number of intimate partner homicides go undetected because the perpetrator is able to “stage” the crime scene to make the homicide look like an accident or a suicide. Homicides in the home are especially susceptible to staging, given that the perpetrator might have an uninterrupted opportunity to alter the scene before calling law enforcement. Although there are warning signs that a case might be a “hidden homicide” – such as a history of domestic violence, past nonfatal strangulation behavior, and the decedent recently attempting to end the relationship – many investigators are not adequately trained on the topic and may close a case without realizing there was any cause for suspicion.

This bill is intended to increase the likelihood that law enforcement and the families of decedents are able to identify intimate partner homicides, even when the scene has been staged. The Senate Public Safety Committee considered the portions of this bill that implement new investigation and training requirements for law enforcement and

coroners, to ensure that they are aware and looking out for the signs of intimate partner homicide. This Committee's analysis focuses on the portion of the bill that expands access to photographic images taken for or by a coroner in connection with a postmortem examination or autopsy. Current law allows the decedent's legal heir or representative to obtain those images from a coroner in connection with a potential or pending civil action relating to the decedent's death; in many cases, the legal heir will be the decedent's spouse, meaning family members will be unable to obtain evidence that may point to a homicide. This bill, therefore, allows a parent, sibling, or parent of a decedent to obtain coroner's images in a case where there is an identifiable history of the decedent being victimized by domestic violence. In response to concerns that introducing an element of discretion – whether domestic violence was adequately proven – into a ministerial function, the author proposes amending the bill to allow any parent, sibling, or child of a decedent to obtain photographic images taken by or for a coroner in connection with the examination of the decedent.

This bill is sponsored by the Alliance for Hope International and is supported by the California District Attorneys Association, CalSAFE, the San Diego District Attorney's Office, the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention, VOICES Survivor Advocacy Network, and three individuals. The Committee has not received timely opposition to this bill. The Senate Public Safety Committee passed this bill with a vote of 5-0.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LAW

Existing law:

- 1) Requires a county to establish an office of coroner (Gov. Code, § 24000(m)); or, alternatively, a board of supervisors may:
 - a) Abolish the office of coroner and provide instead for the office of medical examiner, which will exercise the powers and perform the duties of the coroner.
 - b) Consolidate the offices of sheriff, coroner, and public administrator, or public administrator and coroner. (Gov. Code, §§ 24010, 24304, 24304.1.)¹
- 2) Establishes the coroner's duties, which include inquiring into and determining the circumstances, manner, and cause of all known or suspected homicide, suicide, or accidental poisoning; notifying law enforcement when a person died in circumstances that afford a reasonable ground to suspect that the person's death was occasioned by the act of another by criminal means; examining a body at where the body was located; and performing autopsies at the request of a surviving spouse or other family member, as specified. (Gov. Code, div. 2, pt. 3, ch. 10, §§ 27460 et seq.)

¹ Going forward, this analysis uses "coroner" to refer to coroners and the alternative offices that may lawfully replace a coroner.

- 3) Provides that, notwithstanding any other law, a copy, reproduction, or facsimile of any kind of a photograph, negative, or print, including instant photographs and video recordings (collectively, a photographic record) of the body, or any portion of the body, of a deceased person, taken by or for the coroner at the scene of death or in the course of a postmortem examination or autopsy, shall not be made or disseminated except as follows:
 - a) For use in a criminal action or proceeding in the state that relates to the death of that person.
 - b) As a court of the state permits, pursuant to an order issued upon good cause shown and after written notification of the request for the court order has been served, at least five days before the order is made, upon the district attorney of the county in which the postmortem examination or autopsy was made.
 - c) For potential use in a civil action or proceeding in the state that relates to the death of that person, if either of the following applies:
 - i. The coroner receives written authorization from a legal heir or representative of the deceased person before the action is filed or while the action is pending; the heir or representative must verify their identity by providing to the coroner a declaration under penalty of perjury that they are the deceased person's heir or the deceased person's representative, a valid form of identification, and a certified death certificate.
 - ii. A subpoena is issued by a party who is a legal heir or by a representative of the deceased person in a pending civil action. (Civ. Code, § 129(a).)
- 4) Provides that 3) does not apply to the making or dissemination of a copy, reproduction, or facsimile for use in the field of forensic pathology, in medical or scientific education or research, or by a coroner or any law enforcement agency in the United States for investigative purposes, including identification and identification confirmation. (Civ. Code, § 129(b).)
- 5) Provides that a coroner is not personally liable for monetary damages in a civil action for any act or omission in compliance with 3). (Civ. Code, § 129(d).)
- 6) Establishes the Domestic Violence Prevention Act (DVPA), which establishes procedures by which a victim of domestic violence, abuse, or sexual abuse may obtain a restraining order or protective order against their abuser. (Fam. Code, div. 10, §§ 6200 et seq.)
- 7) Defines "domestic violence" within the DVPA as abuse perpetrated against any of the following persons:
 - a) A spouse or former spouse.
 - b) A cohabitant or former cohabitant.

- c) A person with whom the alleged abuser is having or has had a dating relationship.
 - d) A person with whom the alleged abuser has had a child, as specified.
 - e) A child of a party or a child who is the subject of an action under the Uniform Parentage Act, as specified.
 - f) Any other person related by consanguinity or affinity within the second degree. (Fam. Code, § 6211.)
- 8) Permits a county to establish an interagency domestic violence death review team to assist local agencies in identifying and reviewing domestic violence deaths and near deaths, including homicides and suicides, and facilitating communication among the various agencies involved in domestic violence cases. (Pen. Code, § 11163.3.)
- 9) Requires the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training to implement a course or course of instruction for the training of law enforcement officers in California in the handling of domestic violence complaints, which must include adequate instruction in specified procedures and techniques. (Pen. Code, § 13519.)

This bill:

- 1) States that the Legislature finds and declares all of the following:
- a) Suspicious death cases, where there is a history of domestic violence, are inadequately investigated at times, when a premature decision is made to determine the cause of death as suicide even before a comprehensive investigation has been completed by law enforcement.
 - b) Domestic violence-related deaths are highly susceptible to staging or alteration of the death scene before investigators can conduct a scene investigation, which hampers the responsibilities of the coroner or medical examiner and compromises the ability of investigators to evaluate death cases adequately.
 - c) Research has identified 10 red flag markers in suspicious death cases, where there is a history of domestic violence, that should be evaluated in any death investigation.
 - d) An independent right of family members of homicide victims has been created in federal law to obtain information, access victim services, and request an independent review of initial findings or the investigation of their death of their family member, but the law applies only to those cases under federal jurisdiction.
- 2) Provides that a photographic record may be taken by or for the coroner at the scene of death or in the course of a post mortem examination or autopsy for use or potential use in a civil action or proceeding in this state that relates to the death of the person, if the coroner receives a written authorization from a family member in a case where there is an identifiable history of domestic violence.

- a) To verify the identity of the family member, the family member shall provide a declaration under penalty of perjury that the individual is a family member of the deceased person, along with a valid form of identification and a certified death certificate.
 - b) "Domestic violence" has the same meaning as in Family Code section 6211.
 - c) "Family member" means a parent, sibling, or child of the deceased.
 - d) "Identifiable history of domestic violence" means a history of being victimized by domestic violence that may be determined by prior police reports, written or photographic documentation, restraining order declarations, eyewitness statements, or other evidence that corroborates a history of domestic violence.
- 3) Provides that it is a duty of the coroner to inquire into and determine the circumstances, manner, and cause of all deaths known or suspected as due to suicide where the deceased has a history of being victimized by domestic violence.
- 4) Provides that, if the circumstances surrounding a death known or suspected as due to suicide afford a reasonable basis to suspect that the death was caused by or related to the domestic violence of another, the coroner may conduct the inquiry in consultation with a board-certified pathologist certified by the American Board of Pathology.
- 5) Requires law enforcement investigators, prior to making any findings as to the manner and cause of a deceased individual, to do all of the following:
- a) Make a determination as to whether the decedent has an identifiable history of domestic violence.
 - b) Interview family members, including next of kin, parents, siblings, or other close relatives of the decedent regarding whether the deceased has been victimized by domestic violence.
- 6) Permits law enforcement investigators to request a complete autopsy in a case where they have determined that there is an identifiable history of domestic violence and any of the following conditions are present:
- a) The decedent died prematurely or in an untimely manner.
 - b) The scene of the death gives the appearance of death due to suicide or accident.
 - c) One partner wanted to end the relationship.
 - d) There is a history of domestic violence that includes coercive control.
 - e) The decedent is found dead in a home or place of residence.
 - f) The decedent is found by a current or previous partner.
 - g) There is a history of domestic violence that includes strangulation or suffocation.

- h) The current or previous partner of the decedent, or child of the decedent or the decedent's current or previous partner, is the last to see the decedent alive.
 - i) The partner had control of the scene before law enforcement arrived.
 - j) The body of the decedent has been moved or the scene or other evidence is altered in some way.
- 7) Requires sworn law enforcement personnel investigating a death where it has been determined that the decedent has an identifiable history of domestic violence shall be current in their training related to domestic violence incidents, including training required pursuant to 15).
- 8) Provides that, during the pendency of the investigation under 7) or any review under 10), family members shall have access to all victim services and support provided under Title 17 of Part 1 of the Penal Code.
- 9) Provides that, in the event that a local law enforcement agency makes a finding that a death is not a homicide under 7) and closes the case, family members or their legal counsel shall have the right to request any and all records of the investigation currently available under the California Public Records Act (Gov. Code, tit. 1, div. 10, §§ 7920.000 et seq.).
- 10) Permits a family member of the decedent to request an independent review of the findings of a local law enforcement agency in a case described in 6) to be performed by another law enforcement agency in the county where the death occurred. That agency shall be identified at the discretion of the original investigating agency.
- 11) Provides that, in the event the investigating agency in 10) cannot identify an agency to assist with an independent review, the family may seek out any qualified public or private nonprofit agency authorized by the United States Department of Justice to train law enforcement professionals on the handling of suspicious death cases.
- 12) Provides that, following a request in 10), the local law enforcement agency shall provide all available information to the independent reviewing agency, including all findings and conclusions, for review subject to any required confidentiality agreement to ensure no records are publicly released without authorization from the local law enforcement agency or by court order.
- 13) States that 5)-14) do not require local law enforcement agencies to compromise an existing or open investigation and does not preempt the discretion provided to local law enforcement agencies in the investigation of death cases; and that 5)-14) do not impose any additional liability on a local law enforcement agency for its investigation of existing cases or its investigative conclusions in those cases.

14) Defines the following for 5)-14):

- a) "Identifiable history of domestic violence" means demonstrable past incidents of being victimized by violence that may be verified by prior police reports, written or photographic documentation, restraining order declarations, eyewitness statements, or other evidence that corroborates such incidents.
- b) "Partner" means a spouse, former spouse, former cohabitant, fiancé, someone with whom the decedent had a dating relationship or engagement for marriage, or the parent of the decedent's child.
- c) "Domestic violence" has the same meaning as used in the DVPA.

15) Adds, to the course of basic training for law enforcement officers on the handling of domestic violence complaints, instruction on:

- a) Identification and detection of staged crime scenes.
- b) Working with a multidisciplinary team in the handling of domestic violence cases.
- c) Indicators of domestic homicide in suspicious death cases, including:
 - i. The decedent died prematurely or in an untimely manner.
 - ii. The scene of the death gives the appearance of death due to suicide or accident.
 - iii. One partner wanted to end the relationship.
 - iv. There is a history of domestic violence that includes coercive control.
 - v. The decedent is found in a home or place of residence.
 - vi. The decedent is found by a current or previous partner.
 - vii. There is a history of domestic violence that includes strangulation or suffocation.
 - viii. The current or previous partner of the decedent, or a child of the decedent or the decedent's current or previous partner, is the last to see the decedent alive.
 - ix. The partner had control of the scene before law enforcement arrived.
 - x. The body of the decedent has been moved or the scene or other evidence is altered in some way.

COMMENTS

1. Author's comment

SB 989 significantly enhances investigation protocols in cases involving domestic violence-related deaths. This bill extends the definition of legal representatives to encompass immediate family members, empowers coroners to inquire into deaths they deem suspicious, and designates such deaths as suspicious until properly investigated - strengthening the gravity and urgency of these cases.

Crime scene tampering and staging, predominantly perpetrated by male offenders against female victims within intimate partner relationships, pose serious challenges for law enforcement and medical examiners. Beyond the harm inflicted on victims and their families, these actions impede the pursuit of justice – with cases incorrectly classified as suicides or accidents often lacking comprehensive autopsies.

SB 989 is a crucial step towards ensuring justice for women impacted by domestic violence-related deaths. This bill equips investigators, coroners, and families with the necessary tools and evidence-based detection measures to identify suspicious cases and ensures that California conducts thorough investigations into suspicious deaths involving histories of domestic violence – establishing a voice to families who have long been silenced.

2. Hidden homicides

In the United States, 47.3 percent of women and 44.2 percent of men report experiencing contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking victimization by an intimate partner in their lifetime.² Nearly half of all female homicide victims, 21 percent of transgender and nonbinary homicide victims, and 10 percent of male homicide victims are killed by intimate partners.³ In two-thirds to three-quarters of heterosexual intimate partner homicides, the male had been previously abusive toward the female.⁴ A woman’s risk of being murdered by her intimate partner increases significantly when she is pregnant.⁵ Certain types of abuse are particularly correlated with a future murder; for example, when a partner strangles a woman nonfatally, it increases her chances of becoming the victim of an attempted homicide by 600 percent and of becoming the victim of a completed homicide by 700 percent.⁶

Not all intimate partner homicides are discovered by investigators, however. Some cases slip through the cracks when the perpetrator engages in “crime scene staging,” which “consists of the purposeful manipulation of the scene in order to mislead

² Centers for Disease Control, *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2016/2017 Report on Intimate Partner Violence* (Oct. 2022), pp. 3-4, available at

https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs/NISVSReportonIPV_2022.pdf. All links in this analysis are current as of April 18, 2024. The report did not include data on nonbinary individuals.

³ AbiNader, et al., Examining Intimate Partner Violence-Related Fatalities: Past Lessons and Future Directions Using U.S. National Data, *J. Fam. Violence* (Jan. 12, 2023), pp. 1-12, available at

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9838333/#:~:text=Among%20homicides%20in%20the%20United,an%20estimated%206%25%20of%20suicides>.

⁴ *Ibid.* This statistic counts situations where the male abuser was the perpetrator of the homicide and the victim of it. (*Ibid.*)

⁵ Campbell, et al., *Pregnancy-Associated Deaths from Homicide, Suicide, and Drug Overdose: Review of the Research and the Intersection with Intimate Partner Violence*, *J. Women’s Health* (Feb. 2021), available at

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8020563/>.

⁶ Glass, et al., Nonfatal strangulation is an important risk factor for homicide of women, *J. Emergency Med.* (Oct. 2008) 35(3):329-335, available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2573025/>.

investigators.”⁷ According to the California Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Association (CalSAFE), writing in support of the bill:

Crime scene staging research has found that most offenders who stage crime scenes are male, most victims are female, and the most common victim-offender relationship involving staging is intimate partner relationships... Seasoned investigators, medical examiners, and prosecutors can be misdirected by killers and erroneously find highly suspicious cases were suicides, accidents, or undetermined cause of death cases.

According to stakeholders, many investigators are not adequately trained to look for the signs of a staged crime scene and can be too quick to deem a case a suicide rather than completing a comprehensive investigation.

It is impossible to know how many intimate partner homicides are hidden this way, but there are cases where the deception has been uncovered. For example, Stacy Feldman was found dead in her home in Denver in 2015 after her husband called 911 and reported that she’d collapsed in the shower.⁸ The cause of death was undetermined, but the police did not investigate the case as a homicide until several months later, when they learned that Stacy Feldman had, on the day she died, learned that her husband was having an affair.⁹ The police eventually sought out the assistance of a domestic violence expert, who determined that Stacy Feldman had been strangled; her husband was arrested and convicted of first-degree murder in 2018.¹⁰

3. This bill modifies investigation procedures to increase the likelihood of spotting staged crime scenes in intimate partner violence homicides

This bill is intended to reduce the chances that an intimate partner homicide is successfully covered up as a suicide, accident, or third-party incident. The brunt of the bill’s subject matter falls within the jurisdiction of the Senate Public Safety Committee, which passed this bill with a vote of 5-0 and amended the bill to clarify the bill’s provisions relating to investigator training and when, and in what circumstances, an investigator should look for the possibility of a staged crime scene. The Senate Public Safety Committee’s analysis is incorporated herein by reference.

⁷ Lupariello, et al., Staged crime scene determination by handling physical and digital evidence: Reports and review of the literature (Jul. 2018) Forensic Science International, Vol. 288, pp. 236-241, available at <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29783179/>.

⁸ Nicholson, *Robert Feldman found guilty of first-degree murder in 2015 death of his wife in Denver*, The Denver Post (Apr. 19, 2022), available at <https://www.denverpost.com/2022/04/19/robert-feldman-guilty-2015-denver-murder/>.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

4. This bill expands who may obtain visual images taken by or for a coroner in connection with a potential or ongoing civil action in connection with the decedent's death

For this Committee's purposes, this bill expands the category of persons who may obtain photographs and other visual records taken for or by a coroner at the scene of death or in the course of a postmortem examination or autopsy. The images made for or by a coroner are confidential and can be disseminated only in connection for use in a criminal action relating to the death of the person, through a court order, or to a qualified person for the use in a potential or ongoing civil action relating to the death of the person.¹¹ A qualified person is a legal heir of the decedent or a legal representative of the decedent, and they can obtain the images in one of two ways.¹² The legal heir or representative can submit a written authorization to the coroner – which must include a declaration under penalty of perjury that they are the decedent's legal heir or representative – along with a valid form of identification and a certified death certificate, and the coroner shall release the images.¹³ Alternatively, the legal heir or representative can issue a subpoena for the images in a pending legal action.¹⁴

This bill expands the list of who may request images made for or by a coroner in connection with a potential or ongoing civil action relating to the death of the decedent. As currently in print, the bill allows a family member – which includes a parent, sibling, or child of the deceased – to obtain the images using the same process as a legal heir or representative in cases where there is an “identifiable history of being victimized by domestic violence,” as defined.

As a practical matter, some parents, siblings, and children of deceased persons are already able to obtain images under current law. The statute in question does not define “legal heir,”¹⁵ so it appears to extend to any person who is, through a will or through California's intestate succession laws, an heir of the deceased.¹⁶ In many cases, this will include family members other than the decedent's spouse.¹⁷ But in some cases, the decedent's spouse may be the only legal heir. In circumstances where the family has reason to suspect that the surviving spouse is responsible for the decedent's death, the lack of access to the coroner's images could prevent the family from seeking a second opinion or proceeding with a wrongful death action.

¹¹ Code Civ. Proc., § 129.

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ See generally Prob. Code, div. 6, §§ 6100 et seq.

¹⁷ E.g., Prob. Code, §§ 6401, 6402 (setting forth division of decedent's separate property when decedent dies intestate, with a portion going to the decedent's surviving issue, if any, or parents, as specified).

The current version of the bill limits these family members' right to obtain photos to circumstances where there is an identifiable history of the decedent being victimized by domestic violence. The definition of what constitutes such a history is broad, but will still require a coroner to make a judgment call as to whether the family member has met their burden of showing that domestic violence had occurred. The existing procedure is purely ministerial: if the legal heir or representative provides the necessary documentation and executes the declaration, the coroner must produce the photographs.¹⁸ Introducing an element of discretion complicates this process considerably, and could give rise to situations where coroner's offices are sued by family members who disagree with the coroner's decision.

In order to streamline the bill's expanded access, the author proposes amending the bill to allow all parents, siblings, or children of a deceased person to obtain coroner's images, removing the requirement of establishing a history of domestic violence. As noted above, some parents, siblings, and children are already entitled to these images, so it is not clear how significant this expansion will be. There is also evidence that this provision was always intended to apply to close family members: the Senate Judiciary Committee's analysis of the bill that implemented this provision lists "the victim's parents, children, or other relatives" as persons who would be entitled to photographs under the bill.¹⁹ Accordingly, authorizing a decedent's parents, siblings, and children to obtain coroner's images may be more clarifying than expansive.

5. Amendments

As discussed above, the author proposes amending the bill to eliminate the need for a decedent's parents, siblings, or children in order to obtain coroner's images. The amendments are as follows, subject to any nonsubstantive changes Legislative Counsel may make:

Amendment 1

At page 4, in lines 38-40, add "of that person" after "family member" and delete "in a case where there is an identifiable history of being victimized by domestic violence."

Amendment 2

At page 5, in lines 23-24, add "family member means a parent, sibling, or child of the deceased" after "section," and delete "the following definitions shall apply."

¹⁸ Code Civ. Proc., § 129.

¹⁹ Sen. Com. on Judiciary, Analysis of Assem. Bill No 2427 (2015-2016 Reg. Sess.) as amended May 4, 2016, p. 5.

Amendment 3

At page 5, delete lines 25-34, inclusive.

5. Arguments in support

According to The Alliance for Hope, the bill's sponsor:

The failure of law enforcement professionals to thoroughly investigate death cases, particularly in marginalized communities, with victims lacking privilege or status, and often with victims of color, has been recently documented in the work around missing or murdered indigenous persons by the U.S. Department of Justice. The rush to close cases and the failure to adequately investigate the history of the relationship often colors and biases the investigation. The Alliance has identified ten factors that point to a homicide rather than suicide or accident in intimate partner violence cases:

1. Victim dies prematurely;
2. The scene is made to appear like a suicide or accident scene;
3. One partner wanted to end the relationship;
4. There is a prior history of domestic violence with the current or previous partner;
5. The victim is found dead at home;
6. The victim is found by current or previous partner;
7. The prior identifiable history of domestic violence includes strangulation/suffocation;
8. The victim's partner or former partner is the last to see the victim alive;
9. The partner has control of the crime scene before the police arrive, and
10. The crime scene has been altered in some way.

We have also identified lack of training as a key challenge. Most death investigators do not have specialized training in DV and do not work in a multi-disciplinary team (MDT). Most forensic medical examiners have not been trained in the dynamics of DV and often rely on the investigation by law enforcement to help determine the manner of death. Untrained investigators may be quick to call a case a suicide and not complete a comprehensive investigation. They may also fail to check for a prior DV history, talk to family members, conduct a post lethality risk assessment, or adequately assess suicidal ideation.[...]

With the passage of SB 989, California will create a national model statute that can and will be replicated in other states. It will ensure the voices and rights of family members dealing with the tragic death of a loved one will be heard and honored. It will also provide access to records when formal investigations are concluded to allow family members to seek an independent review of previous

findings. SB 989 will help equip and support professionals across California in the handling of staged crime scene death cases where there is a history of DV.

SUPPORT

The Alliance for Hope (sponsor)
California District Attorneys Association
CalSAFE
San Diego District Attorney's Office
Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention
VOICES Survivor Advocacy Network
Three individuals

OPPOSITION

None received

RELATED LEGISLATION

Pending Legislation: None known.

Prior Legislation:

SB 290 (Min, Ch. 71, Stats. 2023) required state or local law enforcement agencies to make available to a victim or representative, upon request and within a specified time frame, any photographs of a victim's injuries, property damage, or any other photographs noted in the incident report, and 911 recordings related to an incident report.

SB 863 (Min, Ch. 986, Stats. 2022) authorized a county domestic violence death review team to assist local agencies in identifying and reviewing domestic violence near-death cases, as defined.

AB 2427 (Chau, Ch. 467, Stats. 2016) among other things, added the Code of Civil Procedure provision permitting a legal heir or representative of the deceased to obtain coroner's images in connection with a civil action or potential civil action through a written authorization or subpoena.

PRIOR VOTES:

Senate Public Safety Committee (Ayes 5, Noes 0)
