STATE OF NEW YORK

5624

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 18, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. LUCAS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Local Governments

AN ACT to amend the county law, in relation to enacting the mental health assessment and record keeping for the coroner's office act

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "mental health assessment and record keeping for the coroner's office act".

§ 2. Subdivision 3 of section 674 of the county law is amended by adding a new paragraph (c) to read as follows:

(c) (i) The coroner or coroner and coroner's physician, or the medical examiner, also shall make or cause to be made, a mental health assessment which shall include, but not be limited to, a thorough evaluation of the individual's medical and psychiatric history after a review of any available documentation, including but not limited to medication records or therapy reports. The coroner or coroner and coroner's physician, or the medical examiner, shall acquire any necessary medical, psychiatric, or therapy records required to perform the mental health assessment and shall keep such records confidential and protected in accordance with any applicable privacy laws. Such records shall only be used for the mental health assessment, research, and prevention efforts.

(ii) Upon completion of the mental health assessment, the coroner or coroner and coroner's physician, or the medical examiner, shall reduce to writing on a form prescribed by the commissioner of health any findings including, but not limited to, any indications of mental distress or illness and any evidence of mental health disorders, including but not limited to schizophrenia, depression, PTSD, and bipolar disorder. Any documents produced by the mental health assessment, including but not limited to any findings, shall be kept confidential and protected in accordance with any applicable privacy laws. Such documents shall only be used for research and prevention efforts.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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§ 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.