

# About Autopsy and Tissue Collection

1. Collecting brain tissue for diagnosis and research is conducted with great care to still allow for an open casket.
2. Next of kin must sign a consent form.
3. Families are encouraged to participate in phone interviews to help researchers understand past sports history and behavioral and medical issues that may be symptomatic of CTE.
4. Next of kin will receive the confidential results of the CTE autopsy.
5. In order to provide concrete answers and thorough research, autopsies may take many months.
6. Your family will advance brain science and help save lives.



# What Should I Do Now?

Time is of the essence.

Please call the number below or have the coroner, medical examiner, or funeral director contact the number below immediately:

**Boston University CTE Center**  
**24/7 Urgent Matters: 617-992-0615**

Learn about CTE Here:

**PATRICK RISHA**  
**CTE AWARENESS**  
**FOUNDATION**

Visit: [StopCTE.org](http://StopCTE.org)

3 Atkinson Drive Doylestown, PA 18901  
Phone: 215-348-8308

We are a Registered 501(c)(3) Not-for-profit Charitable Foundation. Donations are Welcomed.



# Did Your Loved One Have CTE?

*Many questions about past behavior and loss can be answered with a free autopsy.*

# CTE and the Loss of a Loved One

Is your family dealing with the loss of a loved one as a result of irrational behavior, suicidality, drug addiction, or anger issues?

These could be symptoms of CTE (**Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy**).

In most cases families are totally unaware that the death can be associated with CTE because it is relatively new in science and currently can only be clearly diagnosed post-mortem.

The symptoms for CTE most often do not present themselves until many years or decades after the start of the disease.

CTE is believed to be caused by repeated blows to the head or body. Contact sports, combat duty, and domestic abuse are believed to be the main factors contributing to the start of CTE in the brain.

Many people have never heard of CTE. And because it is a progressive and degenerative disease that destroys the brain slowly, the symptoms of CTE may be linked to exposures long forgotten.

**A diagnosis of CTE can provide a medical reason for your tragic loss.**

Autopsies of the brain may provide critical information that had not been considered or diagnosed, and allow for greater understanding from the tragedy.

Autopsies for CTE are free and can provide answers for family members; and they can also aid in the awareness, education, care, and cure for CTE and other brain diseases in the future.



*To be considered\*  
for a free autopsy  
the donor should  
meet any one of the  
following guidelines:*

1. Men or women with a history of combat exposure.
2. Men or women who played in a contact sport at the high school level or above who died before the age of 35.
3. Men who played contact sports for at least two years at the college, junior or semi-pro level.
4. Women who played a contact sport in college or above.
5. Women with a history of domestic abuse.

\*not all cases can be accepted