WASHINGTON – The Office of Justice Programs’ National Institute of Justice (NIJ), today published “Can CT Scans Enhance or Replace Medicolegal Autopsies?” on NIJ.gov. The report examines the potential of supporting or replacing forensic autopsies with postmortem X-ray computed tomography, commonly called a CT scan.

In response to recommendations made by The National Academy of Sciences, NIJ is exploring using CT scans as a potential component of medicolegal death investigations. NIJ’s work with the New Mexico Office of the Medical Investigator and subsequent findings regarding the topic are discussed in today’s publication.

TITLE: Can CT Scans Enhance or Replace Medicolegal Autopsies?

AUTHORS: National Institute of Justice


The Office of Justice Programs, headed by Assistant Attorney General Karol V. Mason, provides federal leadership in developing the nation’s capacity to prevent and control crime, administer justice, and assist victims. OJP has six bureaus and offices: the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the National Institute of Justice; the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; the Office for Victims of Crime; and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART). More information about OJP and its components can be found at www.ojp.gov.

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