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GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBIA

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**ACT****No. 2 of 2020**

Date of Assent: 23rd October, 2020

**An Act to regulate the practice of forensic science and forensic pathology and provide for the licensing of forensic service providers; establish the National Forensic Authority and provide for its functions; establish the Board of the Authority and provide for its functions; establish the Office of the State Forensic Pathologist; establish the National Forensic Science and Biometrics Department; and provide for matters connected with, or incidental to, the foregoing.**

[26th October, 2020]

ENACTED by the Parliament of Zambia.

Enactment

**PART I**  
**PRELIMINARY**

**1** This Act may be cited as the National Forensic Act, 2020, and shall come into operation on the date appointed by the Minister by statutory instrument.

Short title  
and  
commencement

**2.** In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

Interpretation

“anatomical pathologist” means a medical doctor qualified to examine tissue specimens taken from the human body for purposes of making a diagnosis;

“associate” has the meaning assigned to the word in the Anti-Corruption Act;

Act No. 3 of  
2012

“Authority” means the National Forensic Authority established under section 3;

“biometric” means the measurement and statistical analysis of a human being’s unique physical and behavioural characteristics;

Cap. 1

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- “Board” means the National Forensic Board constituted under section 5;
- “Chairperson” means the person appointed as Chairperson of the Board under section 5;
- “crime scene sample” means physical evidence which is retrieved from a crime scene or any other place where the evidence of a crime may be found, and includes physical evidence collected from the body of a person;
- “Department” means the National Forensic Science and Biometrics Department established under section 27;
- “Emoluments Commission” has the meaning assigned to the words in the Constitution;
- “Executive Director” means the person appointed as Executive Director of the Authority under section 7;
- “forensic” means the practice of forensic pathology and forensic science;
- “forensic analyst” means a forensic expert who practices forensic science and has a postgraduate qualification in any field of forensic science;
- “forensic analysis” means the application of analytical tools and techniques in the discovery of evidence or examination of materials relevant to the investigation of a crime or other legal proceedings;
- “forensic information” means any information used in a forensic investigation, including a deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) profile, fingerprint, impression evidence, serological results, or other related pieces of evidential information obtained by forensic analysis;
- “forensic investigation” means the gathering and analysis of crime related evidence and information by an authorised officer;
- “forensic pathologist” means a medical doctor who—
- (a) holds a qualification in anatomical pathology or its equivalent; and
  - (b) has at least one year’s experience in forensic pathology, post anatomical pathology qualification;

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- “ forensic pathology ” means the application of medical scientific methods in the investigation of violent, suspicious, sudden, unexpected, unattended deaths and deaths in custody;
- “ forensic sample ” means a sample collected from a crime scene and used in an investigation;
- “ forensic science ” means the application of specialised scientific methods in legal matters;
- “ forensic service ” means the provision of forensic science services;
- “ forensic service provider ” means a laboratory or facility that provides a forensic service;
- “ inspector ” means a person appointed as an inspector under section 10;
- “ legally disqualified ” means having no legal capacity as provided in section 4 of the Mental Health Act; Act No. 6  
of 2019
- “ licence ” means a licence issued by the Authority under section 15;
- “ licensee ” means a holder of a licence issued under this Act;
- “ mass disaster ” means an event, natural or man-made, sudden or progressive, resulting in casualties numbering more than ten individuals, the remains of which are identified and subjected to an investigation under the Inquests Act; Cap. 36
- “ medical doctor ” means a medical doctor registered under the Health Professions Act; Act No. 24  
of 2009
- “ medicolegal death ” means death that falls within the jurisdiction of a coroner under the Inquests Act; Cap. 36
- “ member ” means a member of the Board;
- “ provisional licence ” means a provisional licence issued by the Authority under section 14;
- “ relative ” has the meaning assigned to the word in the Anti-Corruption Act; Act No. 3  
of 2012
- “ State Forensic Analyst ” means a person appointed as a State Forensic Analyst under section 29;
- “ State Forensic Pathologist ” means a person appointed as a State Forensic Pathologist under section 24;