

## **AUTOPSY LEAVES UNANSWERED THE REASON FOR TERRI SCHIAVO'S COLLAPSE**

After the initial review by Life Legal Defense Foundation of the medical examiner's report of Terri Schiavo's autopsy, the Foundation has concluded that the report does little to answer the questions surrounding her initial collapse. Following are listed the key points from the June 13, 2005 report by Pinellas County, Florida Chief Medical Examiner John R. Thogmartin, M.D.:

- Terri died of marked dehydration (page 8) but later certifies her death as undetermined (page 9);
- The autopsy was inconclusive as to whether or not Terri was in a persistent vegetative state since PVS is a diagnosis made of living patients (page 8);
- The condition of her heart was "unremarkable," therefore it is likely there was no heart attack (page 4);
- Based on factors detailed in the autopsy report, a diagnosis of bulimia nervosa is suspect (page 3);
- Feeding Terri by mouth could not have been accomplished safely or in sufficient quantity (page 7);
- Non-traumatic asphyxia was possible but no evidence of that or strangulation exists (pages 4-5).

The report also acknowledges at page 2 that it was generally accepted by opposing sides in Terri's medical malpractice suit that a potassium deficiency was the reason for her collapse. However, there was conflicting testimony in that regard, which means that since Michael Schiavo was the only person with Terri at the time of her collapse, only he knows what happened.

Currently, Life Legal is having a medical doctor review the report so that further proficient commentary can be given.