

## **McVeigh Averts Autopsy - Judge Must OK Bomber's Deal**

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The body of Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh will not be subject to an autopsy after his scheduled execution May 16, his attorneys and an Indiana coroner agreed Friday.

Judge Richard Matsch must approve the agreement filed by Mr. McVeigh's lawyers in U.S. District Court and signed by Vigo County, Ind., coroner Susan Amos. There was no indication when Judge Matsch, who presided over Mr. McVeigh's case on a change of venue from Oklahoma, might rule.

The agreement calls for a physical examination of Mr. McVeigh before the execution and a noninvasive examination after his death at the U.S. Penitentiary in Terre Haute, Ind. It specifies that a member of the defense team will accompany the body after his execution to ensure his request is granted.

"Mr. McVeigh has religious, ethical and philosophical objections to an autopsy being performed upon his body after the execution," his lawyers wrote in the agreement.

Mr. McVeigh has said he opposes the "planned mutilation of my corpse."

Mr. McVeigh was convicted of murder, conspiracy and weapons-related charges and sentenced to die for the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. The explosion killed 168 people.

He ended all appeals in December.

The examination before the execution will look for signs of physical abuse that may have happened that day, according to the agreement.

Ms. Amos has said autopsy results could be used to defend lawsuits filed by death-row inmates who allege mistreatment or abuse.

Mr. McVeigh has agreed to sign a statement that says he has not been abused while in custody. If he refuses to sign, an autopsy will be conducted, according to the agreement.

After execution, Ms. Amos will examine Mr. McVeigh's body and take photographs and X-rays if necessary. She will be able to perform an autopsy if she sees evidence of abuse and if Judge Matsch approves.

The agreement says pictures, X-rays and other medical information gathered by the coroner's office will remain confidential.

Ms. Amos said the agreement lets her perform an autopsy if needed and will not affect other death-row cases.