

**Rae H. Wooten, Coroner**

Chief Deputy Coroner  
Bobbi Jo O'Neal

Deputy Coroner  
Dottie Lindsay  
Kelly Kraus  
Brittney Martin  
Kimberly Rhoton  
Sheila Williams  
Sara Senn



**OFFICE OF THE CORONER**

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February 9, 2016

The Honorable Niki Haley  
South Carolina Governor

Governor Haley,

It is my honor to recommend and endorse Chief Deputy Coroner Alice Durr as the Interim Dorchester County Coroner.

I have had the professional privilege of collaborating with and working alongside, Chief Deputy Coroner Alice Durr for many years. Ms. Durr and I work in neighboring counties and have had to call on one another for assistance when working with families in our respective jurisdictions; have collaborated on investigations that crossed county lines; and have worked together on emergency management plans that involve our respective counties.

I have first-hand experience working with Chief Deputy Coroner Alice Durr and have witnessed her as a compassionate advocate for the deceased, their families, other survivors and the community as a whole.

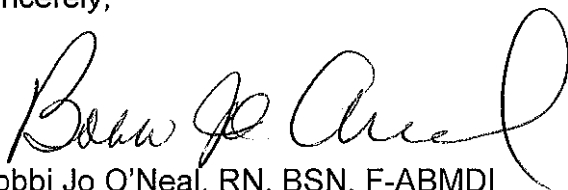
The Coroner is an important role in the specialty of forensic science which requires independent and autonomous investigations, apart from, yet side by side, law enforcement. There must be a clear distinction between a law enforcement investigation and a coroner investigation, as there are times when

the Coroner must make tough rulings that law enforcement may or may not agree with. The Coroner must be independent. The case of Walter Scott here in Charleston County and the current case of Tabettha Grooms in Dorchester County are two recent examples. At the same time the Coroner must be able to truthfully and compassionately assist survivors after a tragic death such as we saw here in Charleston County with the shooting at the Mother Emmanuel Church. I fondly remember when Alice Durr volunteered and then came to the Charleston County Coroner's Office 10 years ago, to man our office so all of the staff of the Charleston County Coroner's Office would be able to attend the funeral of the Charleston 9, the nine firemen who tragically lost their lives in the Sofa Super Store fire.

It is my sincere belief that Chief Deputy Coroner Alice Durr is the appropriate candidate to be appointed Interim Dorchester County Coroner as she has the right investigative, office management and budget experience to continue the uninterrupted day to day operation of the Dorchester County Coroner's Office.

Please contact me directly should you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bobbi Jo O'Neal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, looping "O" at the end.

Bobbi Jo O'Neal, RN, BSN, F-ABMDI  
Chief Deputy Coroner  
Charleston County Coroner's Office  
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