

**Suggested Interview Questions for Janis Amatuzio, M.D.
Author of**

FOREVER OURS

What is a forensic pathologist?

What's the difference between a medical examiner and a coroner?

What inspired you to pursue the field of forensic science?

Did your father, who was a physician, influence your own practice of medicine?

Did you ever consider becoming something other than a doctor?

Do you recall the very first time you heard a story of a person near dying having a visitor who had died many years before or a loved one seeing the recently deceased? What was your reaction?

You are known as the "Compassionate Coroner." Why?

Why did you start calling family members after an autopsy?

Many people report that the medical professionals they encounter are callous and insensitive to the human aspect of death and dying, or even serious illness and disease. What were the reactions in the medical community when you first began sharing these stories?

What has been the reaction from your peers when sharing these stories?

Did other doctors suggest that you should ignore these stories?

Why do you think there is so much public interest today in television shows such as CSI, Cold Case and Crossing Jordan?

How does your morgue compare with what television viewers see on shows such as CSI? Do you think that is a realistic portrayal of your work as a coroner?

What was the biggest risk you ever took in your career or life?

You write that you chose to specialize in forensic pathology because it helped you "speak for the dead." Can you explain how your autopsy reports "speak for the dead"?

You mention in the book that you hope to "honor the dead and comfort the living." Can you explain how your autopsy reports help to comfort the living?

Are there specific examples of families who were comforted by your findings?

When you speak to groups such as insurance providers and medical professionals, what message do you hope they take with them?

If you could say one thing to a person who has recently lost a loved one, what would that be?

As a forensic pathologist, you are trained in looking at patterns of disease, behavior, injury and patterns of living. What are some of the "lessons on living" you'd like to share with us?

Some have referred to you as a pioneer. Why do you think they say that?

What was the definitive story you heard that told you, life goes beyond the physical body?