

[Administrative Code - Medical Examiner's Fees for Copies of Documents and Certain Services]

**Ordinance amending Administrative Code Section 8.14 to adjust the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner's fees for providing certain documents and services; to reduce or delete certain fees; to add fees for new services; and making environmental findings.**

NOTE: Additions are *single-underline italics Times New Roman*; deletions are ~~*strike-through italics Times New Roman*~~. Board amendment additions are double-underlined; Board amendment deletions are ~~strike through normal~~.

Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

Section 1. The Planning Department has determined that the actions contemplated in this ordinance comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.). Said determination is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 130543 and is incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2. The Administrative Code is hereby amended by amending Section 8.14 to read as follows:

(a) The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner is hereby authorized to charge the following fees to ~~defray the cost of the issuance of the following mentioned documents and the providing of the following services.~~ Any persons or government agencies, including departments or agencies of the City and County of San Francisco, that request~~ing~~ or require~~ing~~ such documents or services ~~shall pay the following fees:~~

Proof of death letter	\$ 7.00
<del>Statement to attending physician at death</del>	<del>7.00</del>
<u>Statement of non-contagion</u> <del>Non-contagious letter</del>	7.00

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Certified copy of Medical Examiner's report	34.00
<del>Copy (not certified) of Medical Examiner's report</del>	<del>15.00</del>
Disaster bags <del>for decomposed, accident or infectious cases</del>	49.00
Forensic autopsy <u>by request performed on non-Medical Examiner's cases or outside County</u>	3,274.00
X-rays, <u>per film</u>	113.00
Copies of X-rays, <u>per film</u>	24.00
Re-cut microscopic slides, <u>per slide</u>	24.00
<u>Use of viewing room by request</u> <del>Outside use of facilities for identification of remains</del>	34.00
Storage of remains <del>for funeral directors for other than Medical Examiner's cases</del> , per day	56.00
Removal of remains <del>at</del> <u>from place of death to OCME facility</u> <del>Medical Examiner's Office prior to completion of investigation (Gov. Code § 27472), Medical Examiner's cases. (The charge, if not paid, may be considered a part of the funeral expense and paid as a preferred charge against the estate of the decedent.)</del>	461.00
<del>Storage of remains following completion of investigation and notification of family or funeral director of completed investigation, Medical Examiner's cases, per day</del>	<del>56.00</del>

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<del>Removal and storage</del> <u>Transport</u> of remains from rest homes or other agencies <del>that have no facilities for cold storage, non-Medical Examiner's cases</del>	113.00
<del>Direct e</del> <u>Cremation</u> of remains <u>by request</u>	873.00
<del>Certified F</del> <u>forensic alcohol toxicology</u> report	12.00
<del>Certified S</del> <u>supporting documentation</u> for results of forensic <del>alcohol</del> <u>toxicology</u> report, <u>per page</u>	<del>7.50</del> <u>.90</u>
<u>Packaging and delivery of subpoenaed records to court</u>	<u>18.00</u>
Specimen storage, <u>per month</u>	28.00 <u>permonth</u>
<del>Court and deposition testimony; consultation/staff</del>	<del>225.00/hour**</del>
<del>Expert Court and deposition testimony; or consultation/</del> <del>by OCME toxicologist (non-Ph.D.), per hour</del>	282.00/hour* <del>*</del>
<del>Expert Court and deposition testimony; or consultation/</del> <del>by OCME toxicologist (Ph.D.), per hour</del>	400.00 <del>*</del>
<del>Expert Court and deposition testimony; or consultation/</del> <del>by OCME forensic pathologist, per hour</del>	584.00 <del>hour*</del> <del>*</del>
<del>Expert Court and deposition testimony; or consultation/</del> <del>by OCME investigator, per hour</del>	282.00 <del>hour*</del> <del>*</del>
Drug screening in blood or urine by ELISA (4 common drug categories)	400.00
Drug screening in blood or urine by ELISA (8 common	600.00

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drug categories)	
Drug screening in blood or urine by ELISA (12 common drug categories)	800.00
Drug screening in blood or urine by GC/MS	1,200.00
Drug confirmation in urine, per drug	300.00
Drug confirmation and <del>quantization</del> <u>quantitation</u> in blood, per drug	300.00
Drug screening in gastric contents or tissue by GC/MS	1,500.00
Drug confirmation in gastric contents or tissue, per drug	400.00
Date rape drug screening in urine	1,200.00
Date rape drug confirmation in urine, per drug	300.00
Drug screening and confirmation in hair, per hair specimen	4,000.00
Decedent's property mailing fee	40.00
Histology service <del>for outside agencies</del> , including overnight processing, embedding, cutting, routine H & E staining and coverslipping, per 4 cassettes	120.00
Forensic alcohol analysis <del>for outside agencies</del> , per case	160.00
Drug screening and confirmation in nails, per nail	1,143.00

specimen	
<i>Preparation of specimen for shipment or release</i>	<i>60.00</i>

~~\*Court travel, and expert fees will be added.~~

\*Travel and accommodation charges will be the responsibility of the requesting ~~agency~~ party.

Except as otherwise provided by law, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner is authorized to charge a fee on a time-and-materials basis to issue documents or perform services other than those specified above. The fee charged shall not exceed the actual cost that the OCME incurs in providing the document or service to the requesting party.

(b) All cases brought into the Medical Examiner's Office facility shall be billed for transportation, personnel handling, and storage costs, except for the following categories of cases:

- (1) Decedents under 14 years of age;
- (2) Homicides;
- (3) In custody or police-involved cases;
- (4) Indigents (County disposition);
- (5) Cases in which private charitable funds available to pay funeral costs

would thereby be reduced so as to preclude payment;

(6) Cases specifically exempted by the Chief Medical Examiner or his or her designee.

~~(b)~~(c) Beginning with fiscal year 2003-2004, fees set in this Section may be adjusted each year, without further action by the Board of Supervisors, to reflect changes in the relevant Consumer Price Index, as determined by the Controller.

1 No later than April 15th of each year, the Medical Examiner's Office shall submit  
2 its current fee schedule to the Controller, who shall apply the price index adjustment to  
3 produce a new fee schedule for the following year.

4 ~~—— No later than May 15th of each year, the Controller shall file a report with the Board of~~  
5 ~~Supervisors reporting the new fee schedule and certifying that: (a) the fees produce sufficient revenue~~  
6 ~~to support the costs of providing the services for which each fee is assessed, and (b) the fees do not~~  
7 ~~produce revenue which is significantly more than the costs of providing the services for which each fee~~  
8 ~~is assessed. The Controller shall, if necessary, adjust the fees upward or downward for the upcoming~~  
9 ~~fiscal year as appropriate to ensure that the Medical Examiner's Office recovers the costs of operation~~  
10 ~~without producing revenue that is significantly more than such costs.~~ The adjusted rates shall  
11 become operative on July 1.

12 (e)(d) All fees received for documents and services mentioned in this Section  
13 shall be deposited with the Treasurer and shall be used to defray the costs incurred by the  
14 Medical Examiner in issuing such documents or providing such services.

15 Section 3. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days from the  
16 date of passage.

17 Section 4. This section is uncodified. In enacting this Ordinance, the Board intends to  
18 amend only those words, phrases, paragraphs, subsections, sections, articles, numbers,  
19 punctuation, charts, diagrams, or any other constituent part of the Administrative Code that

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1 are explicitly shown in this legislation as additions, deletions, Board amendment additions,  
2 and Board amendment deletions in accordance with the "Note" that appears under the official  
3 title of the legislation.

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5 APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
6 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

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8 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
9 Sherri Sokeland Kaiser  
Deputy City Attorney

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