

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Certified copy of Medical Examiner's report	34.00
Copy (not certified) of Medical Examiner's report	15.00
Disaster bags for decomposed, accident or infectious cases	49.00
Forensic autopsy by request performed on non-Medical Examiner's cases or outside County	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> Outside use of facilities for identification of remains	34.00
Storage of remains for funeral directors for other than Medical Examiner's cases , per day	56.00
Removal of remains at <u>from place of death to OCME facility</u> 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.)	461.00
Storage of remains following completion of investigation and notification of family or funeral director of completed investigation, Medical Examiner's cases, per day	56.00

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Removal and storage <u>Transport</u> of remains from rest homes or other agencies that have no facilities for cold storage, non-Medical Examiner's cases	113.00
Direct e <u>Cremation</u> of remains <u>by request</u>	873.00
Certified F <u>forensic alcohol toxicology</u> report	12.00
Certified S <u>supporting documentation</u> for results of forensic alcohol <u>toxicology</u> report, <u>per page</u>	7.50 <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>
Court and deposition testimony; consultation/staff	225.00/hour**
Expert Court and deposition testimony; or consultation/ by OCME toxicologist (non-Ph.D.), per hour	282.00/hour* *
Expert Court and deposition testimony; or consultation/ by OCME toxicologist (Ph.D.), per hour	400.00 *
Expert Court and deposition testimony; or consultation/ by OCME forensic pathologist, per hour	584.00 hour* *
Expert Court and deposition testimony; or consultation/ by OCME investigator, per hour	282.00 hour* *
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 quantization <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 for outside agencies , including overnight processing, embedding, cutting, routine H & E staining and coverslipping, per 4 cassettes	120.00
Forensic alcohol analysis for outside agencies , 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.

(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 (d) All fees received for documents and services mentioned in this Section shall
13 be deposited with the Treasurer and shall be used to defray the costs incurred by the Medical
14 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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