



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Requested Board Meeting Date: 6/3/2025

*= Mandatory, information must be provided

Click or tap the boxes to enter text. If not applicable, indicate "N/A".

***Title:**

Amending Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner Fee for Service, Ordinance 2024-9

***Introduction/Background:**

Ordinance No. 2024-9, is the current fee schedule for the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner (PCOME) adopted on July 16th, 2024. We are requesting to amend the following sections:

- o Add Sections 1., I., E.
 - 1., I., E., 1)
 - 1., I., E., 1), a.
- o Remove Section 1., III., B., 2)
- o Edit Sections
 - Numbering in section 1., III., B.
 - Typo in 1., III., B. 4

***Discussion:**

Amendment Request to Ordinance No. 2024-9: Fee Schedule for the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner (PCOME)

Ordinance No. 2024-9, which outlines the current fee schedule for the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner (PCOME), was adopted on July 16, 2024. We are requesting an amendment to this ordinance to establish a new fee structure for the cremation of Anatomical Biomedical Waste. This change will allow PCOME to utilize its existing crematory retorts as a new revenue stream, helping offset costs related to the PCOME Crematory, while also providing a local disposal service for organizations needing to dispose of Anatomical Biomedical Waste.

Additionally, we are requesting the removal of the fee structure for the reproduction of Kodachrome Slides, as PCOME no longer has the capability to create or reproduce these slides.

***Conclusion:**

Ordinance No. 2024-9 needs to be amended to add a fee structure for cremating Anatomical Biomedical Waste and to remove the fee structure for Kodachrome Slides as the office no longer was the ability to create or create these items.

***Recommendation:**

Approve the requested addition and removal to Fee Ordinance 2024-9

***Fiscal Impact:**

Projected slight increase in revenue

***Board of Supervisor District:**

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☒ All

Amending Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner Fee for Service, Ordinance 2024-9

Department: Medical Examiners Office

Telephone: 520-724-8600

Contact: Christopher C. Smith 

Telephone: 520-724-8609

Department Director Signature: 

Date: 4/8/25

Deputy County Administrator Signature: 

Date: _____

County Administrator Signature: _____

Date: 4/10/2025

ORDINANCE 2025 – __

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PIMA COUNTY,
ARIZONA, RELATING TO THE PIMA COUNTY OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL
EXAMINER; AMENDING FEES FOR SERVICES**

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA FINDS THAT:

1. The Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner has authority under A.R.S. §§ 11-594(E), 11-597.02(D), and 39-121.01(D) to charge fees for services and materials.
2. The Board of Supervisors has determined that it is reasonable to amend the fees charged by the Office of the Medical Examiner in order to defray its reasonable costs.

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PIMA COUNTY,
ARIZONA:**

SECTION 1. Section 1 of Ordinance 2024-9, adopted on July 16, 2024 is amended to read as follows:

Section 1. Unless otherwise agreed and memorialized in an Intergovernmental Agreement, the following fee schedule is adopted for the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner:

I. SERVICE FEES

A. Procedures for counties other than Pima:

- 1) Autopsies - \$3,000 per autopsy
- 2) External Examinations - \$1,000 per examination
- 3) External Examinations with toxicology - \$1,500 per examination

B. Cremation authorization - \$35.00 per authorization

C. Body Storage Fees:

- 1) \$150 per day, 72 hours after notification body may be released for storage of non-jurisdictional deaths at the behest of a funeral home or other death care industry (hospital, tissue organization, etc.) establishment
- 2) \$150 per day for out-of-county indigent cases, 15 business days after notification body may be released

D. Pathologists or Anthropologists fees - \$600 per hour including travel, expert consultation time (including but not limited to review of records, telephone conferences, literature reviews, report preparation and other consultation

related preparation), court, depositions, interviews and waiting time as applicable

E. Incineration

- 1) Anatomical Biomedical Waste - \$100.00 per box (40x20x20 or smaller)
 - a. \$50 additional fee if over 250 pounds

- II. Funeral directors or the funeral establishment they are associated with will supply body bags to replace those in which they receive decedents. Body bags are to be of the same type and quality as received. In lieu of this body bag exchange, the funeral director or funeral establishment may pay \$50 per bag.

III. REPRODUCTION COSTS

- A. Commercial: Fees assessed for reproduction of documents or materials for a commercial request may vary depending on the nature of the request and will be determined by the following:
- 1) The cost of obtaining the materials;
 - 2) The cost of time, materials, equipment and personnel in producing the reproduction; and
 - 3) The value of the reproduction on the commercial market as best determined by the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner
- B. Non-commercial:
- 1) Tissue slides - \$25 per slide
 - 2) Photographs or other digital media (radiographs, etc.)
 - a. \$1 per print
 - b. Reproduction of digital media on a CD - \$5
 - 3) Copies of documents - \$2 per complete document plus postage as necessary
 - 4) Request for all items in chart flat fee of \$25
- C. Family members, health care providers and institutions, law enforcement and other appropriate government agencies will not be charged for reasonable reproduction of documents or photographs as determined by the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner

IV. REQUESTS FOR EXTENDED RETENTION

- A. Tissue - \$25 per month
- B. Toxicology/Histology
- 1) Specimens retained at reference laboratory beyond standard retention fee as specified by reference laboratory
 - 2) Specimens retained at Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner beyond standard retention - \$25 per month
 - 3) Fee to return specimen or tissue from lab for extended retention - \$50

V. EXTENDED RETENTION AND RETRIEVAL OF ARCHIVED
ELECTRONIC MATERIALS

- A. Electronic media – at cost billing of charges incurred to retain requested materials
- B. Retrieval of archived electronic materials – at cost billing of charges the incurred to retrieve requested archived materials

VI. INDIGENT INTERMENT PROGRAM

- A. At cost billing of charges incurred for the interment and associated fees either from the decedent's estate or from an authorizing agent, should one be found at a later date
 - 1) Cost paid to third party for interment (when applicable) or \$750
 - 2) Viewing - \$50
 - 3) Shipping of cremains - \$200
 - 4) Death Certificates - \$50 each

SECTION 2. This Ordinance is effective 30 days after adoption by the Pima County Board of Supervisors.

SECTION 3. If any part of this Ordinance is found to be unenforceable for any reason, all other parts nevertheless remain enforceable.


PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors, Pima County, Arizona, this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Chair, Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Clerk of the Board



Deputy County Attorney

ORDINANCE ~~2024~~2025 – __

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- ~~2) Kodachrome slides - \$7 per slide~~
- 2) Photographs or other digital media (radiographs, etc.)
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 - b. Reproduction of digital media on a CD - \$5
- 3) Copies of documents - \$2 per complete document plus postage as necessary
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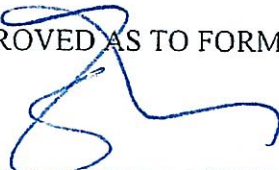
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors, Pima County, Arizona, this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Chair, Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Clerk of the Board



Deputy County Attorney

INTERIM AD DRAFT

This is the proof of your ad scheduled to run in **Daily Territorial (Tucson)** on the dates indicated below. If changes are needed, please contact us prior to deadline at **(520) 294-1200**.

Notice ID: NOZPX6D9eaCSM44oZUKK | Proof Updated: Mar. 25, 2025 at 01:26pm MST
Notice Name: PCOME Fee Ordinance Update 2025

See Proof on Next Page

This is not an invoice. Below is an estimated price, and it is subject to change. You will receive an invoice with the final price upon invoice creation by the publisher.

FILER

Amber Bates
amber.bates@pima.gov
(520) 724-8600

FILING FOR

Daily Territorial (Tucson)

Columns Wide: 1

Ad Class: Legals

03/28/2025: Public Notice	27.32
Affidavit fee	5.00

Subtotal	\$32.32
Tax %	0
Processing Fee	\$0.00
Total	\$32.32

Pima County Office of the
Medical Examiner Fee
Ordinance Update
NOTICE OF HEARING
NOTICE OF THE PIMA
COUNTY BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS
NOTICE IS HEREBY
GIVEN, that a public hearing
will be held on a proposed
amendment to Ordinance
No. 2024-9. The proposed
amendment would amend
the fees for certain services
charged by the Office of
the Medical Examiner.
The hearing is scheduled
for June 3rd, 2025 at 9
a.m. or thereafter at the
Pima County Administra
tion Building, Board of
Supervisors Hearing Room,
130 West Congress Street,
1st floor, Tucson, AZ. The
proposed Ordinance can be
reviewed at the Pima County
Medical Examiner's Office
located at 3050 E Milber St
Tucson AZ 85714
Publish: The Daily Territorial
Date: March 28, 2025
#####

PROPOSED PIMA COUNTY TAXES AND FEES

Public Hearing Notice: Proposed Amendment to Ordinance No. 2024-9 – Medical Examiner Fee Adjustments

(posted March 25, 2025)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a public hearing will be held on a proposed amendment to Ordinance No. 2024-9. The proposed amendment would amend the fees for certain services charged by the Office of the Medical Examiner. The hearing is scheduled for June 3rd, 2025 at 9 a.m. or thereafter at the Pima County Administration Building, Board of Supervisors Hearing Room, 130 W. Congress Street, 1st floor, Tucson, AZ. The proposed Ordinance can be reviewed at the Pima County Medical Examiner's Office located at 3050 E Milber Street, Tucson, AZ 85714 or see the [Ordinance document](#).
