



## **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM REPORT**

Requested Board Meeting Date: April 18, 2017

**Title:** Amending Office of the Medical Examiner Fees for Service, Ordinance No. 2015-0023

### **Introduction/Background:**

Ordinance No. 2015-0023 Section 1., is the current fee schedule adopted for the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner (PCOME) adopted on June 2, 2015. We are requesting to amend Section I.A2, removing the fee for Skeletal Remains examinations.

### **Discussion:**

Under the current fee schedule there are four separate examination types; Autopsies, Skeletal Remains, External Examinations and External Examinations with toxicology. The 'Skeletal Remains' examination type is seldom used, inconsistently applied and redundant in our fee schedule. The PCOME recently transitioned to a new electronic case management system and eliminated our historic paper billing system. Skeletal Remains are difficult to track for billing purposes in our new system.

### **Conclusion:**

The PCOME wishes to eliminate 'Skeletal Remains' examination type as a separate fee in order to remove a seldom used fee and simplify our billing to be tracked through a new case management system.

### **Recommendation:**

Remove 'Skeletal Remains' from the fee ordinance.

### **Fiscal Impact:**

Projected slight increase from out-of-county revenue as examinations currently billed as 'Skeletal Remains' would now be billed as an 'Autopsy' examination.

### **Board of Supervisor District:**

☐ 1      ☐ 2      ☐ 3      ☐ 4      ☐ 5      ☒ All

Department: Christopher C Smith

Telephone: 520-724-8600

Department Director Signature/Date: [Signature] 1/25/17

Deputy County Administrator Signature/Date: \_\_\_\_\_

County Administrator Signature/Date: C. D. [Signature] 2/23/17

**ORDINANCE NO. 2017 - \_\_\_\_**

**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 2015-23, adopted on June 2, 2015, 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 - \$2,300 per autopsy.
2. External Examinations - \$600 per examination.
3. External Examinations with toxicology - \$900 per examination.

**B. Cremation authorization - \$32.00 per authorization.**

**C. Body Storage Fees:**

1. \$75.00 per day, 72 hours after notification body may be released.
2. \$75.00 per day for public fiduciary cases, 30 business days after notification body may be released.

**D. Pathologists or Anthropologists fees - \$400.00 per hour plus travel and per diem.**

**E. 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 same type and quality as received. In lieu of this body bag exchange, the Funeral Director or funeral establishment may pay \$50.00 per body bag.**

## II. 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 - \$25.00 per slide
2. Kodachrome slides - \$7.00 per slide
3. Photographs or other digital media (radiographs, etc.)
  - a. \$1.00 per print
  - b. Reproduction of digital media on a CD - \$5.00
4. Copies of documents - \$0.35 per page plus postage as necessary.

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.

**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:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy County Attorney  
**Jonathan Pinkney**



**ORDINANCE NO. 2017 - \_\_\_\_\_**

**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 2015-23, adopted on June 2, 2015, 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 - \$2,300 per autopsy.
2. ~~Skeletal Remains - \$2,000.~~
3. 2. External Examinations - \$600 per examination.
4. 3. External Examinations with toxicology - \$900 per examination.

**B. Cremation authorization - \$32.00 per authorization.**

**C. Body Storage Fees:**

1. \$75.00 per day, 72 hours after notification body may be released.
2. \$75.00 per day for public fiduciary cases, 30 business days after notification body may be released.

**D. Pathologists or Anthropologists fees - \$400.00 per hour plus travel and per diem.**

**E. 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 same type and quality as received. In lieu of this body bag exchange, the Funeral Director or funeral establishment may pay \$50.00 per body bag.**

## II. 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 - \$25.00 per slide
2. Kodachrome slides - \$7.00 per slide
3. Photographs or other digital media (radiographs, etc.)
  - a. \$1.00 per print
  - b. Reproduction of digital media on a CD - \$5.00
4. Copies of documents - \$0.35 per page plus postage as necessary.

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.

**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:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy County Attorney  
**Jonathan Pinkney**