



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Requested Board Meeting Date: 12/04/2018

Title: Amending Office of the Medical Examiner Fees for Service, Ordinance No.2017-011

Introduction/Background:

Ordinance No. 2017-011 is the current fee ordinance for the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner (PCOME) adopted on April 18th, 2017. The PCOME is requesting amendments to Section 1.I.C.2. , Section 1.I.D., Section 1.II.B.4. and requesting the additions of Section 1.III., Section 1.IV. , Section 1.V.

Discussion:

Changes to Section 1.I.C.2. reflect the recent reorganization of the county Indigent Interment Program. On September 1, 2018 the Pima County Indigent Interment Program was moved from underneath the Pima County Public Fiduciary to the PCOME. The \$75.00 per day storage fee would now only be applicable for out of county indigent cases.

Changes requested to Section 1.I.D. are to align the PCOME with the current market rate for the service of a Forensic Pathologist or Forensic Anthropologist to testify in civil or out of county criminal trials. The fee is requested to be increased from \$400 to \$500 per hour.

Changes requested to Section 1.II.B.4. changes the fee for copies of documents to a more standard accepted fee of \$0.25 cents per page, not \$0.35 cents per page as stated on the current ordinance.

The addition of Section 1.III allows the PCOME to charge a fee if we are asked to store specimens past the retention schedule. The fee requested is \$10 a month past retention.

The addition of Section 1.IV. allows the PCOME to recover costs that are associated with the retrieval of electronic documents that are archived and do not have immediate access.

The addition of Section 1.V. allows for the PCOME to recover costs associated with the Indigent Interment Program now that it is over the program.

Conclusion:

The PCOME wishes to modify the current fee ordinance to reflect the reorganization of the Indigent Interment Program and allow for the office to recover fees. The fee ordinance will also reflect the fee changes to align with the current market rate for services provided by a Forensic Pathologist or Forensic Anthropologists and the going rate for copying documents. The new sections added to the ordinance allow the PCOME to recover costs associated with the removal of digital archived records or specimens held past retention.

Recommendation:

Modify Section 1.I.C.2. reflect the recent reorganization of the county Indigent Interment Program.

Modify Section Section 1.I.D. are to align the PCOME with the current market rate for the service of a Forensic Pathologist or Forensic Anthropologist to \$500 per hour.

Modify Section 1.II.B.4.Decrease the copy fee from \$0.35 cents per page to \$0.25 cents per page.

Add Section1.III allowing the PCOME to charge a fee if asked to store specimens past the retention schedule. The fee requested is \$10 a month past retention.

Add Section 1.IV. allowing the PCOME to recover costs that are associated with the retrieval of electronic documents that are archived and do not have immediate access.

Add Section 1.V. allowing the PCOME to recover costs associated with the Indigent Interment Program.

Fiscal Impact:


The fiscal impact will be a slight increase in revenue for the charged hours of the Forensic Pathologists and Forensic Anthropologists when asked to testify in civil trials or out of county criminal cases. The changes will also allow the revenue to be collected at the PCOME for recovering costs within the Indigent Interment Program.


Board of Supervisor District:

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ All

Department: Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner Telephone: 520-724-8600

Contact: Christopher Smith Telephone: 520-724-8609

Department Director Signature/Date:  9/26/18 JM 10/1/18

Deputy County Administrator Signature/Date:  10/2/2018

County Administrator Signature/Date: C. Deibelburg 10/2/18

ORDINANCE 2018 –

**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~~ 2017-11, adopted on ~~June 2, 2015~~ April 18, 2017 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 per authorization

C. Body Storage Fees:

- 1) \$75 per day, 72 hours after notification body may be released
- 2) \$75 per day for out-of-county indigent ~~public fiduciary~~ cases, ~~30~~ 15 business days after notification body may be released

D. Pathologists or Anthropologists fees - \$400 \$500 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 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.

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 per slide
 - 2) Kodachrome slides - \$7 per slide
 - 3) Photographs or other digital media (radiographs, etc.)
 - a. \$1 per print
 - b. Reproduction of digital media on a CD - \$5
 - 4) Copies of documents - ~~\$0.35~~ \$0.25 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

III. REQUESTS FOR EXTENDED RETENTION

- A. Tissue - \$10 per month
- B. Toxicology
 - 1) Specimens retained at reference laboratory – retention and fee as specified by reference laboratory
 - 2) Specimens retained at Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner - \$10 per month

IV. 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 incurred to retrieve requested archived materials

V. INDIGENT INTERMENT PROGRAM

- A. At cost billing of charges incurred for the interment and associated fees either from the decedents estate or from an authorizing agent, should one be found at a later date

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.

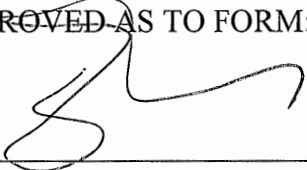
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors, Pima County, Arizona, this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Chairman, Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

~~APPROVED~~ AS TO FORM:

Clerk of the Board



Deputy County Attorney