



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Requested Board Meeting Date: May 4th, 2021

Title: Amending Office of the Medical Examiner Fees for Service, Ordinance 2018-36

Introduction/Background:

Ordinance No. 2018-36 Section 1., is the current fee schedule adopted for the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner (PCOME) adopted on December 4th, 2018. We are requesting to amend Section 1., I. A. 1-3.

Discussion:

Pima County has a long history of offering postmortem examination and death investigation services to other Arizona Counties for which Pima County is remunerated by either an IGA or a fee-for-service billing structure as outlined in the attached Board approved Fee Ordinance. Over time, our operating costs for personnel, ancillary studies such as toxicology testing, etc., increase. On review of Ordinance 2018-36, those cost increases have not be reflected in fee increases since 2015. In this 2015 ordinance, fees for autopsies and external examinations were increased slightly from the previously set fees. Although the ordinance was updated in 2017 and again in 2018 to reflect document retention and remains storage, postmortem examination fees were not addressed during those previous revisions. I believe it is time to increase those fees to reflect our increased costs.

Conclusion:

To cover the increase in costs for services the following fees need to be amended.

- 1) Autopsies from \$2,300 to \$2,500 per autopsy
- 2) External Examinations from \$600 to \$800 per examination
- 3) External Examinations with toxicology from \$900 to \$1,000 per examination

Recommendation:

Approve the request to change the fee structure to:

- 1) Autopsies \$2,500 per autopsy
- 2) External Examinations \$800 per examination
- 3) External Examinations with toxicology \$1,000 per examination

Fiscal Impact:

Projected slight increase in out-of-county revenue

Board of Supervisor District:

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ All

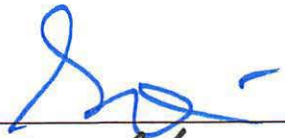
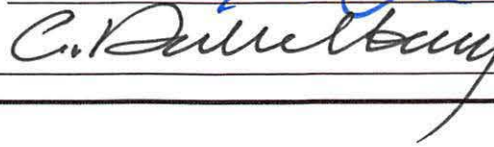
Department: Medical Examiners Office Telephone: 520-724-8609

Contact: Christopher C Smith Telephone: 520-724-8609

Department Director Signature/Date:  3/3/21

Deputy County Administrator Signature/Date:

County Administrator Signature/Date:


 4/21/21

ORDINANCE 2021 – __

**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 2018-36, adopted on December 4th, 2018 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~~ \$2,500 per autopsy
- 2) External Examinations - ~~\$600~~ \$800 per examination
- 3) External Examinations with toxicology - ~~\$900~~ \$1,000 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 cases, 15 business days after notification body may be released

D. Pathologists or Anthropologists fees - \$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 - \$0.25 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 the 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.

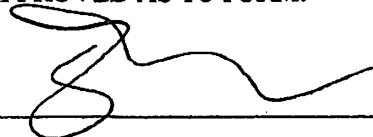
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors, Pima County, Arizona, this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Chair, Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Clerk of the Board



Deputy County Attorney