

Implementing Order



Implementing Order No.: 4-88

Title: MEDICAL EXAMINER FEES FOR SERVICES

Ordered: 9/18/2025

Effective: 10/1/2025

AUTHORITY:

Section 1.01 of the Miami-Dade County Home Rule Charter, Chapter 406 of the Florida Statutes, and Chapter 11G of the Florida Administrative Code.

SUPERSEDES:

This Implementing Order supersedes previous Implementing Order 4-88, ordered September -- 20, 2022, and effective October 1, 2022.

POLICY:

This Implementing Order establishes a schedule of fees for services provided by the Medical Examiner Department (ME), including expert witness fees, body disposition reviews, Indigent Cremation Services (ICS) fees, autopsies on non-ME cases, ME examination and death certification of non-ME cases, death certification review of non-ME cases, public records fees, paternity testing requests, laboratory service fees, photographic service fees and late payment fines. This fee schedule is intended to cover costs to the County for the provision of these services.

PROCEDURE:

Administration of this Implementing Order is designated to the Director of the Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner Department, who will be responsible for the collection of fees (or waiver thereof on a case-by-case basis), and the delivery of the required services according to Chapter 406 of the Florida Statutes. The fees listed herein shall be in effect from the time of Board of County Commissioner's approval.

FEE SCHEDULE:

The fee schedule adopted by this Implementing Order is attached hereto and made a part hereof. The official fee schedule is also filed with and subject to the approval of the Board of County Commissioners and on file with the Clerk thereof. Fees that are charged by the Medical Examiner Department shall be the same as those listed in the official fee schedule on file with the Clerk of the County Commission.

This Implementing Order is hereby submitted to the Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County, Florida.

Approved by the County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency _____

Miami-Dade Medical Examiner Fee Schedule

The Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner Department will impose the charges listed below for each of the services identified:

Expert Witness Fees

Fees for expert testimony services provided by the medical, toxicology, and other professional staff are comparable to those charged in the private sector. Hourly rates are billable to the nearest quarter of an hour.

Chief Medical Examiner, Deputy Chief Medical Examiner, Assistant Medical Examiner, Forensic Pathology Fellow, and Toxicology Laboratory Director

Court time, deposition time, conference and phone conference time
review of records time, preparation time, wait time, travel time to testify
in court or at deposition, and preparation of photomicrographs (excludes
photographic and imaging services which will also be charged) \$400/hr or \$2,800/day

Other Professional Staff (including Toxicology Laboratory Assistant Director, Toxicologists, Investigators, Photographers, Managers, and Supervisors)

Court time, deposition time, conference and phone conference time
review of records time, preparation time, wait time, travel time to testify
in court or at deposition, and preparation of photomicrographs (excludes
photographic and imaging services which will also be charged) \$200/hr or \$1,350/day

Medical Examiner Approval Fees

Florida statutes mandate that the Medical Examiner review each body disposition request arising within the county that involves cremation, anatomical donation, burial at sea, or fetal death.

\$75/case

Indigent Cremation Services

The Indigent Cremation Services (ICS) program assists indigent families with final disposition.

Families providing proof of receiving current government assistance under one or more of the programs listed below will pay:

\$150

- Food Stamps
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Families unable to provide proof of receiving current government assistance will be charged a fee equivalent to the per-cremation operational and administrative costs incurred by Miami-Dade County of:

\$475

* All hourly rates are billable to the nearest quarter of an hour.

ICS Storage Fee Charge to families choosing to make private arrangements after a body has been transported and stored at the ME facility	<u>\$375</u>
<u>ICS Pre-Approval Administrative Review Fee</u>	<u>\$65</u>
ICS Pre-Approval Administrative Review Fee (Guardianship Programs) Charge for indigent adults who are adjudicated incapacitated and assigned to a non-profit guardian program	<u>\$32.50</u>
ICS Shipping Fee Request from families for mailing and shipping cremains via USPS	<u>Domestic \$100</u>

Pathology Services for non-ME Cases

Requests occasionally arise from county citizens for autopsy services on cases that do not fall under ME jurisdiction (outside of Chapter 406 of the Florida Statutes)

Autopsy of non-ME case(s) processed by Department (excluding Laboratory services or other expenses which will be also charged)	<u>\$6,944/case</u>
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Autopsy of non-ME case(s) processed by ME pathologist off-site (Administrative/supply fee) (excluding Laboratory services or other expenses which will be also charged)	<u>\$134/request</u>
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Death certification of non-ME case(s)(excluding Laboratory services or other expenses which will be also charged)	<u>\$980/case</u>
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Public Records

Public records requests for Medical Examiner reports (e.g., autopsy protocol, toxicology report) will be charged as per Florida Statute 119.07

Photo duplication – See schedule for Photographic and Imaging Services (below).

* All hourly rates are billable to the nearest quarter of an hour.

Toxicology Laboratory Services

The ME Toxicology Laboratory provides specific services to attorneys and citizens of Miami-Dade County:

Toxicology Laboratory Forensic Litigation Package	FEE
Requests by attorneys for a compilation of all laboratory records for a case must be arranged through the Laboratory Administrative Coordinator following established laboratory policies and procedures. The litigation package includes the final toxicology report, toxicology test reports and supporting technical data, and chain of custody records.	
Organizing and Preparation of the package	\$80 per hour
Cost per page	\$0.15 per page

Paternity Specimen Request	FEE
Requests from the decedent's family for a blood specimen to perform DNA testing are handled through the Laboratory Administrative Coordinator following established laboratory policies and procedures. Arrangements for DNA laboratory services and specimen shipment are performed in advance by the family. The fee includes document processing and preparation time.	\$75.00

Specimen Request for Additional Testing	FEE
Requests from attorneys to send postmortem specimens to an outside reference laboratory of their choice for additional testing are processed by the Laboratory Administrative Coordinator following established laboratory policies and procedures. The attorney requesting the service is responsible for the test and shipping costs. The fee includes document processing and specimen preparation time.	\$100.00

Photographic and Imaging Services

The ME Forensic Imaging Bureau provides photographic and imaging services to law enforcement officers and attorneys as well as to departmental employees.

* All hourly rates are billable to the nearest quarter of an hour.

Product Name	Product Description	New Unit Price
Color or Black & White Prints		
Color or B&W	8X11	\$7.09
Color or B&W	8X12	\$9.97
Color or B&W	4X6	\$0.60
Color or B&W	5X7	\$2.76
Color or B&W	6X9	\$3.49
Color or B&W	8X10	\$5.65
Color or B&W	11X14	\$11.30
Color or B&W	12X18	\$12.74
CD From Digital Media Up to 40 Images	N/A	\$29.12
CD or DVD Duplication	N/A	\$40.00
DVD From Digital Media	N/A	\$40.00
USB Drive from Digital Media	N/A	\$40.00
Laser Copies		
B&W Laser	8.5X11	\$0.24
B&W Laser	11X17	\$0.24
B&W Laser Legal	8.5X14	\$0.24
Color Laser	8.5X11	\$1.44
Color Laser	11X17	\$1.68
Color Laser Legal	8.5X14	\$2.16
Flatbed Scanning		
Flatbed Scanning Service	Any Size	\$14.06
Index Prints		
Index Print (Jumbo)	8X11	\$7.09
Index Print With Film Processing	4X6	\$2.76
Index Print Without Film Processing	4X6	\$4.21
Lamination		
Lamination 11 1/4" X 8 3/4	11 1/4" X 8 3/4	\$8.41
Lamination 14 1/4" X 8 3/4	14 1/4" X 8 3/4	\$9.85
Lamination 2 5/8" X 3 7/8	2 5/8" X 3 7/8	\$4.21
Lamination 5X7	5X7	\$4.93
Lamination 9X11	9X11	\$7.09

Single Matt Cut or Mounting		
Single Matt Cut or Mounting	8X11	\$7.09
Single Matt Cut or Mounting	8X12	\$8.41
Single Matt Cut or Mounting	4X6	\$2.76
Single Matt Cut or Mounting	5X7	\$4.21
Single Matt Cut or Mounting	6X9	\$5.65
Single Matt Cut or Mounting	8X10	\$7.09
Single Matt Cut or Mounting	11X14	\$9.85
Single Matt Cut or Mounting	12X18	\$11.30

* All hourly rates are billable to the nearest quarter of an hour.

Product Name	Product Description	New Unit Price
Scans		
Scan Medium Quality	N/A	\$8.41
Scan Slide	2X2	\$1.68
Scan Low Quality	N/A	\$4.21
Scan High Quality Jpeg	N/A	\$12.74
Passport Photos	2 2X2's	\$11.18
Slides		
Slides Re-Mount	2X2	\$1.44
Slides Duplication	2X2	\$4.21

Specialties		
Because of the specialized technology and training needed to provide certain photographic services, charges for items listed below as "Specialties" will include the cost of the photographer's time in addition to the cost of materials. The cost for materials will be added to the photographer's hourly rates listed below. Work done after hours will be charged the time and half rate. Time will be billed to the nearest quarter of an hour.		
Photo/Art Design Services	N/A	\$176.78
Badge Photo/ City of Miami/Mosaics	N/A	\$176.78
High Speed Photography	N/A	\$176.78
Copy Work Per Image to a CD	N/A	\$176.78
Photoshop / Poser etc.	N/A	\$176.78
Computer Graphics / PowerPoint	N/A	\$176.78
Pulling Stills From a Video	N/A	\$176.78
Video Tape Editing	N/A	\$176.78
Video Tape Production	N/A	\$176.78
On Location Photography	N/A	\$1,127.61
Rush Service (Same Day)	Any of the Above	Double (2x) Regular Unit Price
Equipment/supply fee for off-site photographic services	N/A	\$67.00

Histology Laboratory Services

In specific situations and pursuant to law, the ME Histology Laboratory provides services to attorneys, law enforcement, and members of the public.

Processing tissue and providing one H&E stained slide from paraffin-embedded block for review at the Medical Examiner Department per Fla. Admin. Code Sect. 11-G	\$25 per slide
Processing tissue and embedding in paraffin block only for review at the Medical Examiner Department per Fla. Admin. Code Sect. 11-G	\$18 per block
Preparation of H&E stained slide from paraffin-embedded block only for review at the Medical Examiner Department per Fla. Admin. Code Sect. 11-G	\$15 per slide
Preparation of unstained slide from paraffin-embedded block for review at the Medical Examiner Department per Fla. Admin. Code Sect. 11-G	\$12 per slide

* All hourly rates are billable to the nearest quarter of an hour.

The above fees include document processing and specimen preparation time. The fees do not include pathologist review (see Expert Witness Fees).

Forensic Training Workshops

The Medical Examiner Department conducts a variety of workshops annually for the purpose of training students and other professionals in various aspects of the science of death investigation. The fee represents per/student enrollment.

Police-Medicolegal Death Investigation Workshop	\$1,250
Police-Medicolegal Death Investigation Workshop (FDLE – Partnership Class)	\$550
Forensic Photography Workshop	\$1,100
Death Certification and Reporting	\$120
Forensic Odontology Workshop	\$1,175
Toxicology Workshop	\$500
Special Topics in Forensics	\$250 per day
ME Fingerprinting Course Admin. Fee	\$32
ME Morgue Tour Admin. Fee	\$32

Late Payments and Worthless Checks

Accounts past due 30-59 days	\$25
Accounts past due 60-89 days	\$35
Accounts past due 90 or more days	\$45

Worthless checks will be handled in accordance with County Administrative Order 4-86.

Case Evidence Storage Fee

Evidence stored at the Medical Examiner in excess of 30 days	\$30
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* All hourly rates are billable to the nearest quarter of an hour.