

Ordinance No. 10151 (NEW SERIES)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE
SAN DIEGO COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND
ADJUSTMENT OF MEDICAL EXAMINER FEES AND CHARGES

The Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego ordains as follows:

Section 1. The Board of Supervisors finds and determines that the County Department of the Chief Medical Examiner fees and charges must be adjusted to reflect actual expenses incurred by the Medical Examiner in the administration of various services and responsibilities. The amendments made by this ordinance will allow the Medical Examiner to recover actual expenses for certain services provided by the Department.

Section 2. Section 161.7 of the San Diego County Administrative Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 161.7. CERTIFICATION OF COPIES OF DOCUMENTS AND FEES.

The Chief Medical Examiner may prepare copies of those public writings and photographs in the office which are open to public inspection, and may certify the accuracy of copies thereof. For all copies so prepared, the Chief Medical Examiner shall collect a fee which shall be not less than the actual cost of labor and materials used in preparing and furnishing such copies as provided in the fee schedule in Section 366.

Section 3. Section 161.8 of the San Diego County Administrative Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 161.8. EXEMPTION FROM FEES.

No fees shall be charged by the Chief Medical Examiner under Section 161 or 366 where exemption is provided by Chapter 2 of Division 7, Title 1 of the Government Code. No fees shall be charged to doctors, hospitals or other medical institutions for such documents as are necessary to assist the Chief Medical Examiner in the completion of the determination of the cause of death.

Section 4. Section 161.9 of the San Diego County Administrative Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 161.9. FEES FOR TECHNICAL LABORATORY SERVICES.

The Chief Medical Examiner's office is hereby authorized to perform technical laboratory services and to charge and collect the full cost of such services, when performed for a private

individual or corporation or public agency other than the County, according to the schedule of fees provided in Section 366. When an autopsy is performed at the request of a decedent's surviving spouse, the decedent's surviving child or parent, or by the next of kin of the deceased, the cost of the autopsy shall be borne by the person requesting it to be performed in accordance with the fee schedule as provided in Section 366.

Section 5. Section 161.11 of the San Diego County Administrative Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 161.11. FEE FOR EMBALMING.

Whenever the Chief Medical Examiner takes custody of a dead body pursuant to law, he shall make a reasonable attempt to locate the family within 24 hours. At the end of 24 hours, he may embalm the body or authorize the embalming by a mortician. A fee for embalming shall be charged to the family of the deceased or the person authorized to take charge of the body in the amount set forth in a schedule of fees in Section 366 and shall be paid to the Department.

Section 6. Section 161.12 of the San Diego County Administrative Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 161.12. CHARGE FOR REMOVING AND KEEPING DEAD BODIES.

(a) Pursuant to Section 27472 of the Government Code, the Chief Medical Examiner, whenever he or she takes custody of a dead body pursuant to law, may charge and collect from the person entitled to control the disposition of the remains, as specified in Section 7100 of the Health and Safety Code, the actual expense incurred by the Chief Medical Examiner in removing the body from the place of death and keeping the body until its release to the person responsible for its interment. The charge shall not be imposed upon a person who claims and proves to be indigent, and shall not include expenses of keeping the body during the time necessary for the Chief Medical Examiner to perform his or her duties in connection with it. The charge, if not paid, may be considered a part of the funeral expenses and paid as a preferred charge against the estate of the decedent.

(b) The Chief Medical Examiner shall determine when the charge authorized hereby will be imposed and the amount thereof. The charge shall not exceed the maximum charge set forth in the schedule of fees. No charge shall be imposed if private funds available to pay funeral costs would thereby be reduced so as to preclude payment of the costs from such funds. No charge shall be imposed on persons who are receiving public financial assistance.

Section 7. Section 366 of the San Diego County Administrative Code is hereby added to read as follows:

SECTION 366. DEPARTMENT OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER.

The following fees and charges shall be paid to the San Diego County Medical Examiner or the County collection agent.

(a) Certification of Copies of Documents and Fees

1. Certification of Documents	\$2.00	cert.
2. Printing and photocopying of Documents	\$1.60	page
3. CD of Digital Photographs	\$15.00	CD

(b) Fees for Technical Laboratory Services

1. Family Requested Autopsy	\$3,931.00	each
2. Formal Neuropathologic Analysis - this service/fee is included in the cost for a Family Requested Autopsy		
3. Observer Safety Clothing	\$10.00	each
4. Histology		

Basic Histology Slides:

One (1) to ten (10) slides per request	\$175.00	each
Each additional slide per request	\$18.00	each

Special Stains I (in-house):

One (1) to ten (10) slides per request	\$198.00	each
Each additional slide per request	\$20.00	each

Special Stains II (sent-out):

Special Stain first slide	\$36.00	each
Immuno first slide	\$66.00	each
Special Stain per additional slide	\$20.00	each
Immuno per additional slide	\$50.00	each

Use of Histology Equipment:

30-minute use of Photo Microscope	\$39.00	each
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5. Toxicology

Acetone	\$57.00	each
Alcohol Screen	\$23.00	each
Alcohol Quant	\$45.00	each
Blood Base Screen	\$86.00	each
Base Quant by NPD	\$187.00	each
Base Quant by NPD (blood only)	\$122.00	each
Drug of Abuse Screen	\$29.00	each
Opiates Quant	\$79.00	each
Amphetamines Quant	\$83.00	each
Cocaine Quant	\$173.00	each
Fentanyl Quant	\$144.00	each
Benzos by HPLC	\$92.00	each
HPLC Screen	\$64.00	each
Other Volatiles	\$99.00	each

Difluoroethane Quant	\$99.00	each
Cyanide Quant	\$147.00	each
CO Screen	\$56.00	each
CO Quant	\$76.00	each
Vit Chem Panel	\$57.00	each
Urine Drugs Screen by GCMS	\$89.00	each
Carisoprodol Quant	\$119.00	each
GHB by GCMS	\$240.00	each
Solid Dose Evidence	\$153.00	each
Tissue Homogenates	\$16.00	each
Send Out Handling Charge	\$29.00	each
Send Out Cost	Lab Cost	each
Cannabinoids by GCMS	\$118.00	each

(c) Fee for Embalming

1. Embalming Services

Unautopsied	\$300.00	each
Autopsied	\$470.00	each
Autopsied & Donor	\$652.00	each

(d) Charge for Removing and Keeping Dead Bodies

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|-----------------------------|----------|------|
| 1. Pouch (Body Bag) | \$35.00 | each |
| 2. Transportation (Removal) | \$245.00 | each |

Section 8. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty days after its passage, and before the expiration of fifteen (15) days after its passage, a summary hereof shall be published once with names of the members of this Board voting for and against it in the Daily Commerce, a publication of general circulation in the County of San Diego.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego this 14th day of June, 2011.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

COUNTY COUNSEL

BY

Dana L. Begley, Deputy County Counsel