

Ray Fernandez, M.D.
Chief Medical Examiner

County of Nueces

2610 Hospital Blvd.
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Adel Shaker, M.D.
Chief Deputy Medical Examiner

OFFICE OF THE



MEDICAL EXAMINER

Phone: (361) 884-4994
Fax: (361) 883-5715

To: Nueces County Judge Loyd Neal
And Commissioner's

From: Ray Fernandez, MD
Chief Medical Examiner

Date: April 18, 2018

Re: Temporary Deputy Medical Examiner/
Former Medical Examiner's Invoicing/Billing

Nueces County changed from contract Medical Examiner's to Temp Medical Examiner's on August 3, 2016. The county changed to hourly pay instead of per cases worked. After a 2-year search the county in 2018 was finally able to recruit a doctor who is actually available to help with Medical Examiner coverage due to current Chief Deputy Medical Examiner back injury.

The Temp Deputy Medical Examiner provides autopsy coverage on as needed basis for Nueces County Medical Examiner Office at our request, and is paid for services provided to our department through our department funds. Our department is provided an invoice for lodging and mileage.

When any other department (E.G. District Attorney Office, Texas Attorney General Office, private attorneys etc.) requests former Medical Examiner's or Temp Medical Examiner's for court testimony; the medical examiner will submit to requesting department an invoice including lodging, mileage, and hours of services provided.

It is the requesting agency, department, or party that is responsible for their fees not the Medical Examiner Department. The hourly fees should not be more than the current fee schedule fee approved by Commissioner's Court.

Enclosures (3)

COPY

NUECES COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER
 INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FEES
 & SERVICES PROVIDED FEE SCHEDULE
 Approved by Commissioners Court November 18, 2015

Type of Service	Description of Service	Fee
Autopsy	External Exam Only	\$1600
Autopsy	Natural Partial Autopsy Only (no toxicology)	\$2500
Autopsy	Natural Death Complete Autopsy Only (no toxicology)	\$2600
Autopsy	Unnatural Death Complete Autopsy only (no toxicology)	\$3600
Autopsy	Unnatural Death Partial Autopsy only (no toxicology)	\$3500
Skeletal	Examination of Skeletal Remains, Single bone	\$150
Skeletal	Examination of Skeletal Remains, Partial	\$750
Skeletal	Examination of Skeletal Remains, Complete	\$1500
X-Rays	Each at Medical Examiner Office	\$100
X-Rays	Each at hospital	\$200
Photos	Digital Prints 4 x 5 single, Each Copy	\$5
Photos	Digital or Polaroid Copies, Per Page (4 per page)	\$20
Photos	Copy of Digital Photos on Disc	\$100
Records	Copy of X-Ray, Single	\$75
Records	Copy Charge/Per Page	\$.10
Records	Copy of Digital x-ray on disk	\$100
Records	Uncertified Autopsy/Examination Report (with tox if available)	\$20
Records	Autopsy Report Certified via Affidavit Notarized	\$70
Records	Certified Affidavit	\$50
Records	Records search per page	\$0.10
Records	Records search 50 or more pages per hour	\$15
Deposition	Minimum charge (2-hour) Pathologist (\$300/hr over 2 hrs)	\$600
Testimony	Court Testimony per hour Pathologist	\$300
Testimony	Investigator per hour (court/office consult)	\$100
Consult	Office Consultation/per hour (doctor)	\$300
Consult	Records/Video Review (Doctor)	\$300

NUECES COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER
 INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FEES
 & SERVICES PROVIDED FEE SCHEDULE
 Approved by Commissioners Court _____

Consult	Neuropathology Consultation	\$5000
Toxicology	Carbon Monoxide blood (plus shipping)	\$100
Toxicology	Carbon Monoxide Tissue (plus shipping)	\$500
Toxicology	Comprehensive Quantitative Sample Analysis, each sample	\$500
Toxicology	Comprehensive Quantitative Sample Analysis, each tissue sample	\$700
Toxicology	H.I.V (AIDS) Screen	\$50
Toxicology	Pediatric Screens	\$100
Toxicology	Panel I	\$200
Toxicology	Panel II	\$300
Toxicology	Tissue	\$500
Toxicology	Histology (slides)	\$300
Toxicology	Cytogenetics testing	\$1300
Toxicology	Respiratory PCR Panel (Baby Metabolic Genetic Screen)	\$700
Storage	Body Storage Per Day (none decomposed)	\$200
Storage	Bones	\$100
Storage	Body Storage Per Day (decomposed/malodorous)	\$300
Storage	Evidence Storage per day in locked location daily e.g. bullets etc.	\$50
Other Fees	Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (Texas Administrative Code)	\$500
Other Fees	Examination of evidence obtained from investigation site, such materials cannot be removed from premises of the ME office	\$150
Other Fees	Tissue/Slide examination on premises (outside pathologist)	\$100
Other Fees	Tissue sections per slide each (shipping charges pre-paid by recipient)	\$30
Other Fees	Examination and identification of debris	\$150
Other Fees	Rape Kit/Collection	\$300
Other Fees	GSR Kit Collection	\$50
Other Fees	Blood Spot Collection	\$50
Other Fees	Nail/Hair Collection	\$100
Other Fees	Consultant Fee (Dental/Neurology)	\$500
Other Fees	Morbid Obese (Body Mass Index over 40)	\$500
Other Fees	Decomp Fee Additional (Autopsy/Exam)	\$500
Shipping	Shipping and Handling Fee	\$100
Photos	Digital or Polaroid Copies, Per Page (4 per page)	\$20

NUECES COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FEES
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 Approved by Commissioners Court _____

Records	Copy of Digital Photos on Disc	\$100
Records	Copy of X-Ray, Single	\$75
Records	Copy Charge/Per Page	\$.10
Records	Copy of Digital x-ray on disk	\$100
Records	Uncertified Autopsy/Examination Report (with tox if available)	\$20
Records	Subpoena Witness Fee (STATUTORY FEE) production of records	\$1
Records	Subpoena Witness Fee (STATUTORY FEE) witness on standby	\$10
Records	Certified Affidavit/Interrogatory	\$50
Deposition	Minimum charge (2-hour) (\$300/hr over 2 hrs) Pathologist	\$600
Testimony	Court Testimony per hour Pathologist	\$300
Testimony	Investigator per hour (court/office consult)	\$100
Consult	Office Consultation/per hour (doctor)	\$300
Consult	Records/Video Review (Doctor)	\$300
Other Fees	Examination of evidence obtained from investigation site, such materials cannot be removed from premises of the ME office	\$150
Other Fees	Tissue/Slide examination on premises (outside pathologist)	\$100
Other Fees	Tissue sections per slide each (shipping charges pre-paid by recipient)	\$30
Shipping	Shipping and Handling Fee	\$100

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REGULAR MEETING - August 3, 2016

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this the 3rd day of August, A.D., 2016, there was begun and held a REGULAR MEETING of the Honorable Commissioners Court of Nueces County, Texas, wherein the following members thereof were present, to-wit:

SAMUEL L. NEAL, JR.	COUNTY JUDGE
MIKE PUSLEY	COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 1
JOE A. GONZALEZ	COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 2
OSCAR O. ORTIZ	COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 3
BRENT CHESNEY	COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 4

and Kara Sands, County Clerk of Nueces County, Texas, wherein the following proceedings were had, to-wit:

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. County Judge Neal called for the Invocation by Reverend Anne Kowalczyk of Island Presbyterian Church, 14030 Fortuna Bay, Corpus Christi, Texas 78418.
- B. County Judge Neal led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America and Texas Flags.
- C. County Judge Neal called the roll at 9:16 a.m. and certified a quorum of the Court with all members present.
- D. Approve the following Minutes:

1. July 13, 2016

Motion by: Commissioner Pusley, Second by: Commissioner Chesney

Motion: Approve the Commissioners Court Minutes of July 13, 2016.

Vote: 5 - 0 Approved

E. Adopt the following Resolution(s), Proclamation(s), and/or Order(s):

- 1. Dr. Sue Nelson - Educational Service Center Region 2 Superintendent of the Year.

Motion by: Commissioner Pusley, Second by: Commissioner Gonzalez

Motion: Recognize Dr. Sue Nelson for her accomplishments in education and being named Educational Service Center Region 2 Superintendent of the Year.

Vote: 5 - 0 Approved

Commissioners Court - Regular

4. A. 6.

Meeting Date: 08/03/2016

Temporary Medical Examiner

Submitted By: Steve Waterman, Commissioners
Court Admin

Department: Commissioners Court Admin

Information

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss and consider setting the rate of pay for Temporary Deputy Medical Examiners.

BACKGROUND

In the past the Medical Examiner utilized contract Deputy Medical Examiners to periodically cover weekends. Under the contract the Deputy ME's were compensated on the basis of \$600 per day for coverage to include 1 case worked on; \$600 for each additional complete autopsy; \$500 for each partial autopsy; and \$350 for each external examination. Earlier this year, the ME requested to increase these rates to \$900; \$700; and \$500. The contracts were not considered by the Court due to the IRS ruling that we have to pay the Deputy ME as a county employee.

DISCUSSION

Under the old pay rate per each case, the equivalent hourly rate for an 8 hour day is \$203.69 per hour. Dr. Fernandez is requesting that this rate be increased to \$280.79 per hour. Under this pay plan, Temporary Deputy Medical Examiners would be paid on an hourly basis for hours actually worked. At this rate the budgeted amount for this line item (\$25,000) would cover 10 full days of service.

6. Discuss and consider setting the rate of pay for Temporary Deputy Medical Examiners. **Comment: Dr. Ray Fernandez.**

Motion by: Commissioner Chesney, Second by: Commissioner Pusley

Motion: Authorize setting the rate of pay for Temporary Deputy Medical Examiners.

Vote: 5 - 0 Approved

7. Discuss and consider approval of Work Order amending Electronic Transaction Processing Agreement with Official Payments to provide Nueces County Juvenile Justice Center with credit/debit payment transaction services.

Motion by: Commissioner Gonzalez, Second by: Commissioner Chesney

Motion: Approve Work Order amending Electronic Transaction Processing Agreement with Official Payments to provide Nueces County Juvenile Justice Center with credit/debit payment transaction services.

Vote: 5 - 0 Approved

8. Discuss and consider adopting a Resolution approving street improvements to Avenue D in Driscoll, Texas, located in front of the new school, using Commissioner Precinct #3 RTA street improvement funds.; and authorizing an interlocal agreement with the City of Driscoll related to Avenue D street improvements.

Motion by: Commissioner Ortiz, Second by: Commissioner Gonzalez

Motion: Adopt a Resolution approving street improvements to Avenue D in Driscoll, Texas, located in front of the new school, using Commissioner Precinct #3 RTA street improvement funds.; and authorized an interlocal agreement with the City of Driscoll related to Avenue D street improvements.

Vote: 5 - 0 Approved

9. Discuss and consider adopting an Order prohibiting outdoor burning in the unincorporated areas of Nueces County, pursuant to Section 352.081 of the Texas Local Government Code.

Motion by: Judge Neal, Second by: Commissioner Gonzalez

Motion: Adopt an Order prohibiting outdoor burning in the unincorporated areas of Nueces County, pursuant to Section 352.081 of the Texas Local Government Code.

Vote: 5 - 0 Approved

B. GRANTS

1. Discuss and consider the acceptance of a public assistance subaward #PA-06-TX-4223-PW-1820 (Berlanga Community Center) from the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM).

Motion by: Commissioner Ortiz, Second by: Commissioner Pusley

Motion: Authorize the acceptance of a public assistance subaward #PA-06-TX-4223-PW-1820 (Berlanga Community Center) from the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) in the amount of \$82,775.08.

Vote: 5 - 0 Approved