



**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PROTECTION
COUNTY OF VOLUSIA, FLORIDA**



**MEDICAL EXAMINER
DISTRICT 7 & 24
VOLUSIA AND SEMINOLE
COUNTIES**



DISTRICT 7



**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PROTECTION
COUNTY OF VOLUSIA, FLORIDA**



VISION
**DELIVER HIGH QUALITY, COST EFFECTIVE AND TIMELY DEATH INVESTIGATIONS,
WITH INTEGRITY AND COMPASSION**

MISSION
**To determine the cause and manner of death in cases falling under Medical Examiner jurisdiction,
in a timely, compassionate and professional manner, with sensitivity toward the decedent's family**

CORE VALUES
Exemplify high moral and ethical character
Demonstrate professional competence, integrity and sound judgment
Display compassion, respect and sensitivity
Provide courteous, timely and responsive service
Seek professional development opportunities
Assist law enforcement and criminal justice agencies
Facilitate postmortem eye and tissue recovery
Promote loyalty and teamwork

GOAL
Be recognized as the best medical examiner office and district in the state

DISTRICT 7



**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PROTECTION
COUNTY OF VOLUSIA, FLORIDA**



APPLICABLE STATUTES, FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE (FAC), PRACTICE GUIDELINES AND POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

CHAPTER 406, FLORIDA STATUTE

**PART I: MEDICAL EXAMINERS
PART II: DISPOSITION OF DEAD BODIES**

CHAPTER 11G: MEDICAL EXAMINERS COMMISSION, FAC

**11G-1: ORGANIZATION
11G-2: STANDARD INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES
11G-3: DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES (REPEALED)
11G-4: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR MEDICAL EXAMINER DISTRICTS (REPEALED)
11G-5: DISTRICT MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR FLORIDA MEDICAL EXAMINERS, 2007

POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL, DISTRICT 7 AND 24, October 2008

DISTRICT 7



**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PROTECTION
COUNTY OF VOLUSIA, FLORIDA**



WHY DO WE NEED A MEDICAL EXAMINER?



DISTRICT 7



**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PROTECTION
COUNTY OF VOLUSIA, FLORIDA**



WHY DO WE NEED A MEDICAL EXAMINER?

FACTS:

DOCTORS ARE REQUIRED TO SIGN BIRTH CERTIFICATES AND DEATH CERTIFICATES, BOTH VITAL RECORDS, MAINTAINED ON FILE WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ACCURATE RECORDS ARE NEEDED FOR CIVIL (INSURANCE BENEFITS) AND CRIMINAL (JUSTICE SYSTEM) PROCEEDINGS

THEREFORE:

CERTAIN TYPES OF DEATH REQUIRE A MEDICAL EXAMINER TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE AND MANNER OF DEATH SO THE DEATH OPINION AND CERTIFICATE CAN BE PROPERLY SIGNED AND FILED

DISTRICT 7



**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PROTECTION
COUNTY OF VOLUSIA, FLORIDA**



**TYPES OF DEATHS COMING UNDER MEDICAL EXAMINER JURISDICTION,
PER SECTION 406.11, FLORIDA STATUTE**

WHEN ANY PERSON DIES IN THE STATE:

1. OF CRIMINAL VIOLENCE
2. BY ACCIDENT
3. BY SUICIDE
4. SUDDENLY, WHEN IN APPARENT GOOD HEALTH
5. UNATTENDED BY A PRACTICING PHYSICIAN OR OTHER RECOGNIZED PRACTITIONER
6. IN ANY PRISON OR PENAL INSTITUTION
7. IN POLICE CUSTODY
8. IN ANY SUSPICIOUS OR UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCE
9. BY CRIMINAL ABORTION
10. BY POISON
11. BY DISEASE CONSTITUTING A THREAT TO PUBLIC HEALTH
12. BY DISEASE, INJURY, OR TOXIC AGENT RESULTING FROM EMPLOYMENT

DISTRICT 7



**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PROTECTION
COUNTY OF VOLUSIA, FLORIDA**



TYPES OF POSTMORTEM EXAMINATIONS

1. **AUTOPSY**
2. **EXTERNAL (VISUAL) EXAMINATION**
3. **DEATH CERTIFICATION ONLY**

DISTRICT 7



**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PROTECTION
COUNTY OF VOLUSIA, FLORIDA**



AVERAGE TIMES FOR POSTMORTEM PROCEDURES

1. **AUTOPSY: 1 HOUR**
2. **EXTERNAL (VISUAL) EXAMINATION: ½ HOUR**
3. **DEATH CERTIFICATION ONLY: 1 HOUR**

ACTUAL TIME DEPENDS ON TYPE AND COMPLEXITY OF CASE, SUCH AS:

NATURAL vs HOMICIDE

QUANTITY OF MEDICAL RECORDS

EXTENT OF INVESTIGATION

DISTRICT 7



**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PROTECTION
COUNTY OF VOLUSIA, FLORIDA**



RECORDS GENERATED BY ME OFFICE, BY PROCEDURE

RECORD / REPORT	AUTOPSY	EXTERNAL EXAM	DC ONLY
AUTOPSY REPORT	✓	✓	
BODY DIAGRAM	✓	✓	
DC WORKSHEET	✓	✓	✓
DEATH CERTIFICATE	✓	✓	✓
INVESTIGATOR'S INTAKE FORM	✓	✓	✓
PERSONAL EFFECTS INVENTORY	✓	✓	
EVIDENCE RECORD	✓	✓	
MEDICATION LIST	✓	✓	
FINGERPRINT CARD	✓	✓	
TOXICOLOGY REPORT	✓		
HISTOLOGY SLIDES	✓		
DNA CARD	✓	✓	
CASE NARRATIVE (DB RECORD)	✓	✓	✓
ECC DISPATCH LOG / RECORD	✓	✓	✓

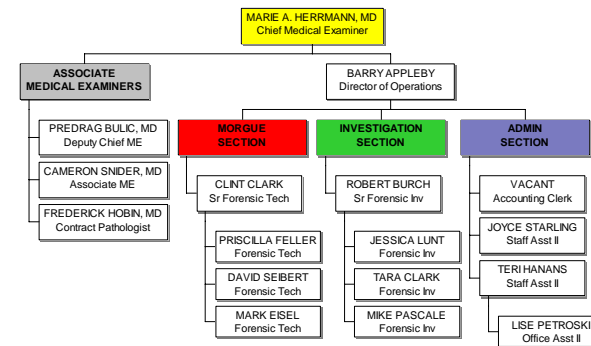
DISTRICT 7



**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PROTECTION
COUNTY OF VOLUSIA, FLORIDA**



OFFICE ORGANIZATION CHART



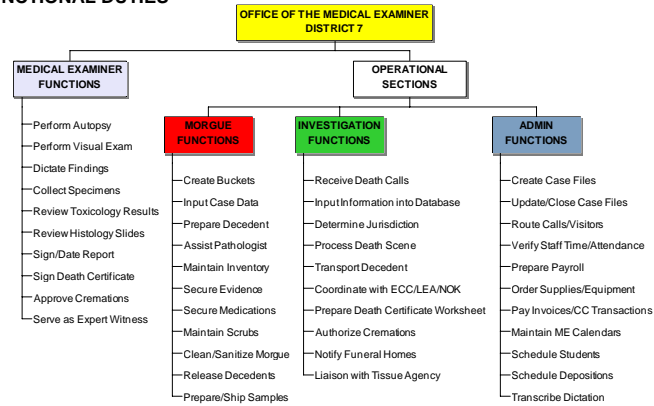
DISTRICT 7



**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PROTECTION
COUNTY OF VOLUSIA, FLORIDA**



FUNCTIONAL DUTIES



DISTRICT 7



**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PROTECTION
COUNTY OF VOLUSIA, FLORIDA**



MEDICAL EXAMINERS

CHIEF:
Marie A. Herrmann, MD

DEPUTY CHIEF:
Predrag Bulic, MD

ASSOCIATE:
Cameron F. Snider, MD

ASSOCIATE (CONTRACT):
Frederick Hobin, MD

FORENSIC INVESTIGATORS

Robert Burch

Jessica Lunt

Tara Clark

Mike Pascale

FORENSIC TECHNICIANS

Clint Clark

Priscilla Feller

David Seibert

Mark Eisel

DISTRICT 7



**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PROTECTION
COUNTY OF VOLUSIA, FLORIDA**



CRITICAL FUNCTIONS

1. DEATH CALLS (ECC DISPATCH)
2. INTAKE PROCEDURES
3. DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION
4. SCENE RESPONSE
5. DATA INPUT INTO ME CASE MANAGEMENT DATABASE
6. DECEDENT TRANSPORT
7. DECEDENT WORK-UP
8. POSTMORTEM EXAMINATION: AUTOPSY OR EXTERNAL
9. TOXICOLOGY / HISTOLOGY SPECIMENS
10. DICTATION
11. RELEASE TO FUNERAL HOME
12. TRANSCRIPTION
13. AUTOPSY REPORT / FINDINGS / SIGN DEATH CERTIFICATE
14. EXPERT TESTIMONY
15. CREMATION APPROVALS

DISTRICT 7



**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PROTECTION
COUNTY OF VOLUSIA, FLORIDA**



CALENDAR YEAR 2008 CASE SUMMARY

COUNTY	# OF AUTOPSIES	# OF VISUALS	# OF DC'S	# OF NME'S	# OF CREMATIONS	# OF DEATHS REVIEWED
VOLUSIA	522	148	1	409	3,565	4,645
SEMINOLE	225	34	3	283	1,424	1,969
TOTALS	747	182	4	692	4,989	6,614

DISTRICT 7



**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PROTECTION
COUNTY OF VOLUSIA, FLORIDA**



SPECIAL PROGRAMS

1. VIEWING OF AUTOPSIES

- MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS
- STUDENTS IN MEDICAL PROGRAMS
 - PARAMEDICS
 - PRE-MED
 - EMT'S
- COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS
- LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

2. VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

3. SPECIAL WORKERS

DISTRICT 7



**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PROTECTION
COUNTY OF VOLUSIA, FLORIDA**



ISSUES

1. OFFICE ACCREDITATION (N.A.M.E.)
2. OFFICE SPACE
3. CALL PAY FOR STAFF
4. CASE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE / WEB-BASED ASP
5. NIMS COMPLIANCE
6. RESTRICTED ACCESS FACILITY
7. BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS

DISTRICT 7



**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PROTECTION
COUNTY OF VOLUSIA, FLORIDA**



GREEN BUILDING INITIATIVE

1. **DIGITAL RADIOGRAPHY**
 - ELIMINATE CHEMICAL PROCESSOR
 - ELIMINATE COST OF CHEMICALS
 - ELIMINATE HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL
 - ELECTRONIC STORAGE OF RADIOGRAPH
 - IMAGE MANIPULATION
2. **DIGITAL FINGERPRINTS**
 - ELIMINATE INK AND SOLVENTS
 - ELECTRONIC STORAGE OF IMAGE
3. **POSTMORTEM REPORT DISTRIBUTION**
 - ELECTRONIC DISTRIBUTION
 - REDUCE USE OF PAPER, ENVELOPES AND POSTAGE
4. **BIO-MEDICAL WASTE**
 - SERVICE CONTRACT FOR PICK-UP AND DISPOSAL

DISTRICT 7



**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PROTECTION
COUNTY OF VOLUSIA, FLORIDA**



MEDICAL EXAMINER CONSULTANTS

FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY

CA Pound Human Identification Laboratory
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
Assessment of skeletal material

FORENSIC ODONTOLOGY

Dr. Jan Westberry
New Smyrna Beach, FL
Identification of human remains

FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY

NMS Labs
Willow Grove, PA
Toxicological analysis of specimens

FORENSIC HISTOLOGY

Wuesthoff Reference Laboratories
Melbourne, FL
Histological preparation of specimens

LIVERY SERVICES

West Volusia Removal Service
Orange City, FL
Decedent removal and transport services

DISTRICT 7









