




Medical Examiner Division
 Department of Public Protection
 County of Volusia, Florida






October 13, 2015

Citizens Academy



Medical Examiner Division
 Department of Public Protection
 County of Volusia, Florida



MEDICAL EXAMINER INVESTIGATION

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 physician or other recognized practitioner
6. In any prison or penal institution

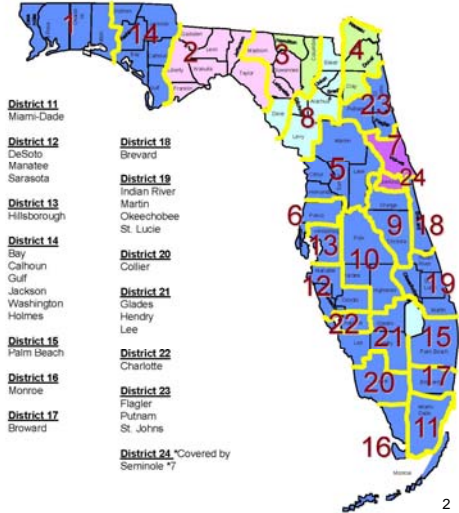
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Coverage Map


- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| District 1
Escambia
Okaloosa
Santa Rosa
Walton | District 6
Citrus
Hernando
Lake
Marion
Sumter | District 11
Miami-Dade | District 16
Brevard |
| District 2
Franklin
Gadsden
Leon
Liberty
Jefferson
Taylor
Wakulla | District 8
Pinellas
Pasco | District 12
DeSoto
Manatee
Sarasota | District 19
Indian River
Martin
Okeechobee
St. Lucie |
| District 3 *Covered by
Columbia *4
Dixie *8
Hamilton *4
Lafayette *2
Madison *2
Suwannee *2 | District 7
Volusia | District 13
Hillsborough | District 20
Collier |
| District 4
Duval
Nassau
Clay | District 8
Alachua
Baker
Bradford
Gilchrist
Levy
Union | District 14
Bay
Calhoun
Gulf
Jackson
Washington
Holmes | District 21
Glades
Hendry
Lee |
| | District 9
Orange
Osceola | District 15
Palm Beach | District 22
Charlotte |
| | District 10
Hardee
Highlands
Polk | District 16
Monroe | District 23
Flagler
Putnam
St. Johns |
| | | District 17
Broward | District 24 *Covered by
Seminole *7 |



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AUTHORITY


Florida Statute - Chapter 406 (Medical Examiner Law)

- Establishes duties and responsibilities of the District Medical Examiners
- Provides for the establishment of the Medical Examiner Commission under FDLE for oversight of the District Medical Examiners
- Directs that fees, salaries, and expenses be paid by the local County


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MEDICAL EXAMINER INVESTIGATION


When any person dies in the State:

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


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MEDICAL EXAMINER SYSTEM

Ensures that certain types of deaths are investigated

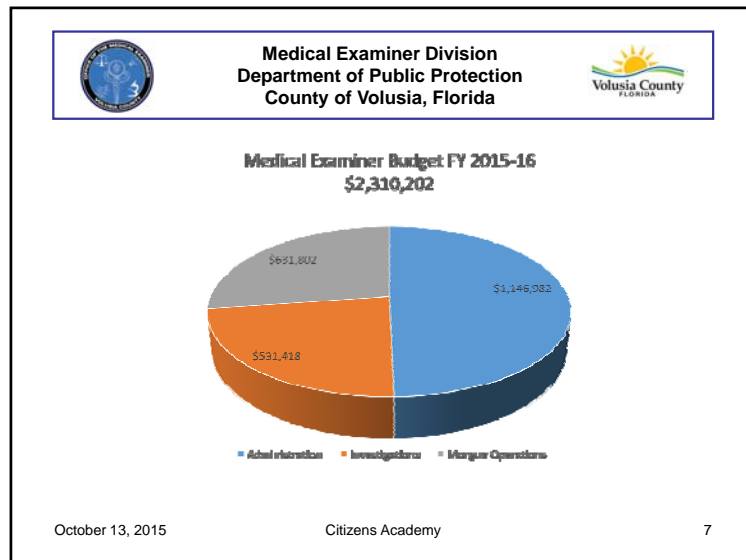
Ensures that an informed cause and manner of death is determined utilizing medical and scientific expertise for those certain types of deaths


Ensures that accurate death records are prepared and filed for civil (eg. Insurance benefits) and criminal (eg. Justice system) proceedings

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MEDICAL EXAMINER SUPPORT SERVICES/CONSULTANTS

<u>FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY</u> CA Pound Human Identification Laboratory University of Florida, Gainesville, FL Assessment of skeletal material	<u>FORENSIC ODONTOLOGY</u> Dr. Jan Westberry New Smyrna Beach, FL Identification of human remains
<u>FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY</u> NMS Labs Willow Grove, PA Toxicological analysis of specimens	<u>FORENSIC HISTOLOGY</u> Halifax Health Medical Center Daytona Beach, FL Histological preparation of specimens
<u>NEUROPATHOLOGY</u> Stephen Nelson, MA, MD Bartow, FL	<u>RADIOLOGY</u> Radiology Associates Daytona Beach, FL
<u>LIVERY SERVICES</u> Central Florida First Call Service Orlando, FL Decedent removal and transport services	<u>CLINICAL LABORATORY SERVICES</u> Halifax Health Medical Center Daytona Beach, FL


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CALENDAR YEAR 2014 CASE SUMMARY

COUNTY	# OF AUTOPSIES	# OF VISUALS	# OF DCO'S & INV'S	# OF NME'S	# OF CREMATIONS	# OF DEATHS REVIEWED
VOLUSIA	424	238	19	276	5,245	6,202
SEMINOLE	198	96	5	276	2,284	2,859
TOTALS	622	334	24	552	7,529	9,061

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OTHER ACTIVITIES and SPECIAL PROGRAMS


Revenue Generating Activities (which goes directly into the General Fund)

- Partner by contract with Seminole County to provide medical examiner services (District 24)
- Review of deaths in order for body to be cremated
- Use of the facility by postmortem tissue procurement organizations

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CHALLENGES


Accredited by the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME), June 2010, for 5 years

- Signifies to the public that the office is performing at a high level of competence


Inspection for Re-Accreditation by NAME, September 2015

- Provisional Accreditation due to Phase I and Phase II deficiencies, mainly dealing with the facility

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CHALLENGES


Infrastructure of Medical Examiner Facility (Capital Improvement)

- Refrigerated body storage space
- Bad odors wafting into administrative offices (offensive to employees and visitors)
- Lack of space for storage of supplies and evidence
- Maxed out on electrical (freezers)
- Inadequate break/lunch room for staff size and facility location (odors)

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CHALLENGES

Budget Concerns


- Maintaining quality medical examiner services in a tightening budget
- Maintaining employee interest and moral

Implementation of a Case Management system to replace outdated, soon to be technically unsupported database


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CHALLENGES

State and National Professional Expectations

- Maintaining NAME accreditation
- Compliance with Standards
- Maintaining subject matter expertise
- Compliance with forthcoming National Standards

Responding to the Public's High Expectations

- "CSI effect"
- Balancing medical examiner mission with the demands of private interests

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