



King County Medical Examiner's Office

Harborview Medical Center
325 Ninth Avenue, Box 359792
Seattle, WA 98104-2499

206-731-3232 Fax 206-731-8555

TTY Relay: 711

www.kingcounty.gov/health

December 9, 2016

Dear Medical Examiner Stakeholder:

The King County Medical Examiner's Office is proud to work with our stakeholders to provide professional and caring services. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of changes to our fee schedule, adopted by the King County Council, which will take effect January 1, 2017.

As you know, King County Code (KCC 2.24.135) requires the King County Medical Examiner to review all deaths prior to burial or cremation of decedents who die in King County. Since this was enacted in 2008, over 100,000 deaths have been reviewed, resulting in over 1,000 new cases that were identified through the review. These new cases required the Medical Examiner to take jurisdiction and investigate further. Families of decedents have a strong need to know why their loved ones have died; this law allows us to assure that no jurisdictional death falls through the cracks. There has been an increase in the number of cities, counties and states with similar laws to ensure medical examiner office investigation of jurisdictional deaths.

The fee for burial and cremation review, meant to cover administrative costs incurred, has been sixty dollars. However, the cost of cremation and burial reviews has risen and the fees no longer cover the cost of the service. Earlier this month, the King County Council passed an ordinance raising the fee from \$60 to \$70 per review to better align the fee with actual cost. The effective date of this fee change will be January 1, 2017.

If you would like further information concerning the fee increase, an informational sheet can be found at our website: kingcounty.gov/health/examiner. If there are questions please contact Louise Davis at (206) 731-2883 or Tesia Forbes at (206) 263-8173

We look forward to serving you in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Louise Davis
Administrator
King County Medical Examiner's Office

Dennis Worsham
Division Director, Prevention Division
Public Health, Seattle & King County