[Amending Medical Examiner's fees.]

Ordinance amending the San Francisco Administrative Code by amending Section 8.14, to adjust fees for services provided by the Medical Examiner, and to provide for annual adjustment of these fees to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index.

Note: Additions are single-underline italics Times New Roman; deletions are strikethrough italics Times New Roman. Board amendment additions are double underlined. Board amendment deletions are strikethrough normal.

Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

Section 1. The San Francisco Administrative Code is hereby amended by amending Section 8.14, to read as follows:

SEC. 8.14. MEDICAL EXAMINER'S FEES FOR COPIES OF DOCUMENTS AND CERTAIN SERVICES.

(a) The Medical Examiner is hereby authorized to charge fees to defray the cost of the issuance of the following mentioned documents and the providing of the following services. Any persons requesting or requiring such documents or services shall pay the following fees:

- Proof of death for insurance purposes $ 5.00
- Statement to attending physician at death 5.00
- Certified copy of verdict of inquest 5.00
- Non-contagious letter 5.00
- Certified copy of Medical Examiner's report 30.00
- Copy (not certified) of Medical Examiner's report .10/page
- Disaster bags for decomposed, accident or infectious cases .25/page
- Forensic autopsy performed on non-Medical

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Examiner's cases or outside county  2,000.00
X-rays  100.00 each
Copies of X-rays  20.00 each
Re-cut microscopic slides  20.00 each
Outside use of facilities for identification of remains  30.00
Storage of remains for funeral directors for other than Medical Examiner's cases, per day  50.00 25.00
Removal of remains to Medical Examiner's
Office prior to completion of investigation (Gov. Code §27472), Medical Examiner's cases. (The charge, if not paid, may be considered a part of the funeral expense and paid as a preferred charge against the estate of the decedent.)  175.00 400.00
Storage of remains following completion of investigation and notification of family or funeral director of completed investigation, Medical Examiner's cases, per day  50.00 25.00
Removal and storage of remains from rest homes or other agencies that have no facilities for cold storage  100.00
Autopsy reports to hospitals and attending physicians  5.00
Certified copy of letter confirming death pending
completion of autopsy  5.00
Forensic alcohol report  10.00 5.00
Supporting documentation for results of forensic alcohol report  6.00/page
Blood quantitation for drugs  250.00
Urine testing for drugs  250.00
Gastric screen 150.00
Tissue screen 175.00
Pre-trial conference at Medical Examiner’s Office

* for non-criminal or out-of-county cases 100.00/hour

Pre-trial conference at county of request 250.00/hour**
Deposition at Medical Examiner’s Office 150.00/hour
Deposition outside of Medical Examiner’s Office 200.00/hour**
Court testimony, toxicologist 250.00/hour**
Court testimony, forensic pathologist 500.00/hour**
Court testimony, medical technologist or investigator 250.00/hour**

* Court travel, and expert fees will be added.
** Travel and accommodation charges will be the responsibility of requesting agency.

All cases brought into the Medical Examiner’s Office facility shall be billed for transportation, personnel handling, and storage costs, except for the following categories of cases:

(1) Decedents under 14 years of age;
(2) Homicides;
(3) In custody or police-involved cases;
(4) Indigents (County disposition);
(5) Cases in which private charitable funds available to pay funeral costs would thereby be reduced so as to preclude payment;
(6) Cases specifically exempted by the Medical Examiner or his designee.

* Beginning with fiscal year 2005-2006, fees set in this Section may be adjusted each year without further action by the Board of Supervisors, to reflect changes in the relevant Consumer Price Index, as determined by the Controller.
No later than April 15th of each year, the Medical Examiner’s Office shall submit its current fee schedule to the Controller, who shall apply the price index adjustment to produce a new fee schedule for the following year.

No later than May 15th of each year, the Controller shall file a report with the Board of Supervisors reporting the fee new schedule and certifying that: (a) the fees produce sufficient revenue to support the costs of providing the services for which each fee is assessed, and (b) the fees do not produce revenue which is significantly more than the costs of providing the services for which each fee is assessed.

(c) All fees received for documents and services mentioned in this Section shall be deposited with the Treasurer and shall be used to defray the costs incurred by the Medical Examiner in issuing such documents or providing such services.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

By:
THOMAS J. OWEN
Deputy City Attorney
Ordinance amending the San Francisco Administrative Code by amending Section 8.14, to adjust fees for services provided by the Medical Examiner, and to provide for annual adjustment of these fees to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index.

July 1, 2002  Board of Supervisors — PASSED, ON FIRST READING
Ayes: 11 - Ammiano, Daly, Gonzalez, Hall, Leno, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Newsom, Peskin, Sandoval, Yee

July 8, 2002  Board of Supervisors — FINALLY PASSED
Ayes: 11 - Ammiano, Daly, Gonzalez, Hall, Leno, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Newsom, Peskin, Sandoval, Yee
I hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance was FINALLY PASSED on July 8, 2002 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

Date Approved

Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.