

HOURS OF OPERATION

BUSINESS HOURS: Monday – Friday
8:00 am to 12 noon and 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

24-HOUR LINE TO REPORT A
DEATH
(210) 335-4011

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. D. Kimberley Molina
Chief Medical Examiner

Vacant
Deputy Chief Medical Examiner

Steven Nicholson
Fiscal & Admin Services Manager

SECTION SUPERVISORS

Dr. Veronica Hargrove
Chief Toxicologist

Nicole L. Healy
Chief Medical Investigator

Kelley Beyer
Morgue Supervisor

OTHER HELPFUL NUMBERS

Texas Attorney General's Office
Crime Victim's Services
(800) 983-9933

Bexar County Vital Statistics
(210) 335-2585

Metropolitan Health District
Vital Statistics
(210) 207-8754



Bexar County Medical Examiner's Office
7337 Louis Pasteur Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78229-4565
Phone (210) 335-4000
Fax (210) 335-4002

www.bexar.org/medicalexaminer
email: frontdesk@bexar.org

**THE BEXAR COUNTY MEDICAL
EXAMINER'S OFFICE STAFF
SHARE YOUR SORROW
REGARDING THE LOSS OF
YOUR LOVED ONE.**



**BEXAR COUNTY
MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE**

The mission of the Medical Examiner's Office is to provide the citizens and agencies of Bexar County with accurate scientific determinations of the cause and manner of death of all individuals dying violently or suddenly and unexpectedly in Bexar County. Inside this brochure, please find information that will help you during this time of need.

Medical Examiner Case Number

What is the Bexar County Medical Examiner's Office?

The Medical Examiner's Office was established on July 1, 1956. This Office investigates the deaths of all individuals in Bexar County who die violently or suddenly and unexpectedly in order to determine the cause and manner of death.

The Investigation Section of the Office conducts scene investigations and interviews witnesses to the deaths, attending physicians, relatives and police. Based on the information gathered, a decision is made as to whether the case falls within Medical Examiner jurisdiction. If it does, the Medical Examiners will determine what type of examination is appropriate.

When an examination is conducted, body fluids and/or tissue are removed from the body and may be analyzed by the Toxicology Section to determine the presence or absence of poisons, drugs or other chemicals.

The Administrative and Clerical Sections provide support services to the Office.

May I view my loved one at the Medical Examiner's Office?

No. Direct viewing is never allowed at the Medical Examiner's Office for a variety of reasons.

Are autopsies done on all cases? How much does it cost?

No. The decision to perform an autopsy is made by the Medical Examiner on duty. If an autopsy is deemed necessary in order to determine the cause of death it will be performed at no cost to the family. In some cases of natural death with advanced age or a significant medical history, an autopsy may not be needed to certify death.

Will an autopsy interfere with an open casket viewing?

No. If there are no injuries before the autopsy, the incisions from the autopsy are easily covered by clothing.

What do I do when a loved one dies and is taken to the Medical Examiner's Office?

Select a Funeral Home and notify them that the case is being handled by the Medical Examiner's Office. The Funeral Home will handle all the paperwork for you. In most cases, the deceased is examined and released within 24 hours. State law provides the person responsible with handling the decedent's funeral arrangements must do so within six days of being notified of the death.

What if I don't have financial means for funeral service/burial/cremation?

Contact the Community Investment Office at (210) 335-0757 or the Crime Victims Assistance Program at (210) 207-2141.

Is it necessary for me to come to the Medical Examiner's Office to identify my loved one?

No. In most cases, visual identification is not necessary. In those rare instances when it is necessary, an Investigator will contact the next of kin and ask that a family member or acquaintance come to the office to view a photograph of the decedent for identification purposes.

Are medications confiscated by the Medical Examiner returned?

No. Once the individual to whom the drugs are prescribed dies, the medications are considered a contraband substance and they are destroyed.

If there is biohazard at the scene, who will clean it up?

To have private property cleaned, you may refer to the Yellow pages "Crime & Trauma Scene Clean Up" Section.

How do I obtain my loved one's personal belongings?

For the convenience of the family, the personal belongings are released with the body to the funeral home except in selected cases in which they are released to law enforcement agencies.

Who can get a copy of the autopsy report? How much does it cost and how long does it take to complete?

The autopsy report is public record. The normal completion time for an autopsy report is 8-12 weeks. Once the case is closed, anyone may request a copy by emailing our office at merecords@bexar.org. Certain cases may not be releasable due to objections from investigating agencies.

Where can I obtain a copy of the Death Certificate?

Death certificates may be obtained from the Bureau of Vital Statistics in the County where the death occurred. Often this service is provided by the Funeral Home handling the final arrangements.

What if I want to donate a body to science?

You may contact the following:

The University of Texas Health Sciences Center at San Antonio
www.uthscsa.edu/csa/bodydonation
(210) 567-3900

- OR -

Texas State University
www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/donations
(512) 245-8272