

State of Alaska FY2002 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Health and Social Services
State Medical Examiner
Component

Component: State Medical Examiner

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Component Mission

To provide a state-wide system for the medical-legal investigation of unanticipated, sudden, violent deaths in order to provide accurate, legally defensible determinations of the cause of death.

Component Services Provided

This agency provides forensic pathology services statewide. The central facility, in Anchorage, provides post mortem examinations appropriate for each case referred and includes access to state of the art forensic medical services including not only forensic pathology but also radiology, odontology, anthropology and the services of the Department of Public Safety Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory.

Component Goals and Strategies

1. Continue implementation of a state-wide system for the medical-legal investigation of unanticipated, sudden, violent deaths in order to provide accurate, legally defensible determinations of the cause of death.
2. Perform examinations necessary in deaths subject to investigation.
 - a. Limit complete autopsies only to appropriate cases as determined by the medical examiner and not at the request of other individuals.
 - b. Stop shipping remains where such transportation is not necessary.
3. Train personnel involved in death investigation, including local physicians, state and local police, village public safety officers, etc.

Key Component Issues for FY2001 – 2002

The key issue for this program is the increased workload resulting from the Child Protection Laws and the need for recruitment of an additional forensic pathologist medical examiner.

Opening of the new Public Health Laboratory/SME facility in Anchorage in January 2001.

Major Component Accomplishments for FY2000

- A) Reviewed death investigation costs.
 1. Utilized contracts with common carriers for transport of remains.
 2. Enforced criteria for cases to be further examined by forensic pathologists.
 3. Diminished use of toxicology and other consultative services to the State Medical Examiner's Office by defensible criteria for such exams.
- B) Continued quality assurance system for the State Medical Examiner's Office.
- C) Planned for moving to new Medical Examiner facility.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

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7 AAC 35

Death Investigations and Medical Examinations
Embalming

State Medical Examiner
Component Financial Summary

All dollars in thousands

	FY2000 Actuals	FY2001 Authorized	FY2002 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	720.0	880.7	929.0
72000 Travel	8.4	7.1	7.1
73000 Contractual	208.3	205.8	205.8
74000 Supplies	42.4	49.3	49.3
75000 Equipment	38.9	43.2	43.2
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	0.2	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	1,018.2	1,186.1	1,234.4
Funding Sources:			
1004 General Fund Receipts	1,018.2	1,168.5	1,234.4
1053 Investment Loss Trust Fund	0.0	6.1	0.0
1108 Statutory Designated Program Receipts	0.0	11.5	0.0
Funding Totals	1,018.2	1,186.1	1,234.4

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2000 Actuals	FY2001 Authorized	FY2001 Cash Estimate	FY2002 Governor	FY2003 Forecast
Unrestricted Revenues						
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unrestricted Total		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Revenues						
Statutory Designated Program Receipts	51063	0.0	11.5	11.5	0.0	0.0
Restricted Total		0.0	11.5	11.5	0.0	0.0
Total Estimated Revenues		0.0	11.5	11.5	0.0	0.0

State Medical Examiner

Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2002

With the passage of the Child Protection Act, additional professional staff needs to be added to insure that the children of Alaska are protected from Child Abuse and Neglect. The State Medical Examiner's Office is increasingly being asked to become involved in Child Abuse cases while the child is still alive to determine if the child's injuries are inflicted or accidental in nature.

Summary of Component Budget Changes

From FY2001 Authorized to FY2002 Governor

All dollars in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2001 Authorized	1,174.6	0.0	11.5	1,186.1
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Convert Special FY2001 Labor Cost Fund Sources to GF	11.5	0.0	-11.5	0.0
-Year 2 Labor Costs - Net Change from FY2001	-1.7	0.0	0.0	-1.7
Proposed budget increases:				
-Annualization of 3rd Pathologist	50.0	0.0	0.0	50.0
FY2002 Governor	1,234.4	0.0	0.0	1,234.4

State Medical Examiner
Personal Services Information

Authorized Positions			Personal Services Costs	
	FY2001 Authorized	FY2002 Governor		
Full-time	13	13	Annual Salaries	693,083
Part-time	0	0	COLA	12,664
Nonpermanent	0	0	Premium Pay	26,729
			Annual Benefits	223,518
			<i>Less 2.82% Vacancy Factor</i>	(26,994)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	13	13	Total Personal Services	929,000

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Administrative Assistant	1	0	0	0	1
Administrative Clerk II	2	0	0	0	2
Autopsy Assistant	1	0	0	0	1
Deputy State Medical Examiner	2	0	0	0	2
Embalmer	2	0	0	0	2
Investigator I	3	0	0	0	3
Investigator II	1	0	0	0	1
State Medical Examiner	1	0	0	0	1
Totals	13	0	0	0	13