

CHAPTER 126
 STATE MEDICAL EXAMINER
 [Prior to 4/20/88, see Medical Examiner, State[566] Ch 1]
 [Prior to 6/30/99, see Public Safety Department[661] Ch 21]

Chapter rescission date pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.7: 7/1/31

641—126.1(144,331,691) Definitions.

“Autopsy” means the external and internal postmortem examination of a deceased person.

“County of appointment” means the county that requests a medical examiner to conduct an investigation, perform or order an autopsy, or prepare a report or reports in a death investigation case. The request may be authorized by the county attorney or the county medical examiner. The county of appointment shall be the county in which the death occurred.

[ARC 0148D, IAB 3/18/26, effective 7/1/26]

641—126.2(691) Fees for autopsies and related services and reimbursement for related expenses. Autopsies performed by the state medical examiner are provided on a fee-for-service basis. Costs of autopsies and related services and expenses are the responsibility of the county of appointment. The county of residence of the deceased shall reimburse the county of appointment.

126.2(1) Fee schedule. The following fees apply as specified in this subrule.

a. The following fees apply to autopsies conducted by the state medical examiner:

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| Autopsy. | \$2,100* |
| | *Pursuant to 126.2(1) “a”(2), this amount will increase annually by 2 percent beginning July 1, 2027. |
| Copies of reports. | \$20 |

(1) EXCEPTIONS: A copy of the autopsy report is automatically sent to the county medical examiner and to the county attorney without fee. A single copy of an autopsy report may be provided to the immediate next of kin of the deceased without fee. Copies of autopsy reports may be provided to public officials and physicians of record for official purposes without fee.

(2) Beginning with the fiscal year starting July 1, 2027, the amount of the autopsy fee will increase annually by 2 percent each July 1.

b. The following fee is for time spent reviewing case materials, preparing for deposition or court, testifying in deposition or court, and travel time.

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| State, deputy, or associate medical examiner(s) time for all court cases | \$450 per hour with a one-hour minimum |
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c. A cremation permit fee of \$75 will be assessed for each permit investigated and authorized by the state medical examiner’s office.

126.2(2) Expense reimbursement. Other laboratory services associated with an autopsy, which include but are not limited to photography, toxicology, radiology, microbiology, and morgue fees, will be billed by the department to the county of appointment. Moneys collected pursuant to this subrule will be paid by the department to the laboratory or other entity providing the service.

126.2(3) State medical examiner acting as county medical examiner. When the state medical examiner acts in the capacity of county medical examiner, the state medical examiner receives from the county of appointment a fee of \$100 per hour, with a one-hour minimum, for each report prepared plus the state medical examiner’s actual expenses. Counties should not depend on the state medical examiner for full-time coverage.

[ARC 0148D, IAB 3/18/26, effective 7/1/26]

641—126.3(691) Fees for tissue recovery. When the tissue recovery room located within the office of the state medical examiner is utilized by an authorized tissue recovery agency, a fee of \$400 per case will be

assessed. The tissue recovery agency is responsible for this fee, payable to the office of the state medical examiner.

[ARC 0148D, IAB 3/18/26, effective 7/1/26]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 691.6.

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