



Frequently Asked Questions

The mission of the District One Medical Examiner's Office (D1MEO) is to serve and protect the interest of the community by maintaining the highest standard of professionalism and integrity in determining the cause and manner of death. Our vision is to be a national leader in science and investigation as we seek the truth on behalf of the families and community members we serve. We are committed to collaboration, excellence, and compassion.

What types of deaths are investigated by the District One Medical Examiner's Office (D1MEO)?

Deaths suspected to be homicides, suicides, or accidents, as well as sudden and/or unexpected natural deaths are investigated by D1MEO. We strive to investigate thoroughly and professionally the cause, manner, circumstance, and mechanism of death in these cases as defined under Florida Statute, Chapter 406 and per recommendations provided under the Administrative Procedures Act, Rule Chapter 11G. For more information on deaths that are reportable to D1MEO, visit www.d1meo.org.

Where will my loved one be taken?

To the D1MEO facility.

Do I need to identify my loved one?

No. Identification is typically done on-scene by law enforcement using visual comparison with known identification images such as a driver's license. In some cases positive identification via scientific means may be performed.

Does permission need to be granted from the family to perform an autopsy?

No. Per Florida Statute, D1MEO is not required to obtain permission to perform an autopsy that falls under our jurisdiction. Religious objections to an autopsy are handled via consultation and are on a case-by-case basis.

Is viewing or visitation of my loved one allowed at your facility?

No. Viewing or visitation is not allowed while your loved one is at D1MEO. Viewing or visitation may take place at the funeral home you have chosen.

What will happen to my loved one while at your facility?

A medical examiner, who is a specially trained medical doctor (also known as a forensic pathologist) will perform an examination to establish the cause and manner of death. Once this has been completed, your loved one can be released to the funeral home chosen by the legal next-of-kin or their designee.

I am the next-of-kin, what do I do now?

You will need to make arrangements directly with a funeral home or mortuary service. D1MEO cannot recommend nor deter individuals from using a particular mortuary service or funeral home. We recommend consulting with friends and family, checking reviews, and getting multiple estimates prior to making a selection. If you are not from the northwest Florida area, you may wish to work with a funeral home from your hometown, especially if your loved one is to be transported. Once you have selected a funeral home, you will sign a Consent For Release form and the funeral home will work with D1MEO on the transport of your loved one.

How long before my loved one is released?

Your loved one will be available for release to the funeral home after completion of the medical examiner's examination and receipt of a signed Consent For Release form from the legal next-of-kin.

What happens to my loved one's personal effects?

If personal effects were transported with your loved one they will be inventoried and turned over to the funeral home.

Are autopsies performed in all cases?

No. External examination and/or review of existing medical records may be performed at the discretion of the medical examiner. The type and extent of the examination performed depends on the type of case and the circumstances of death.

What is cause and manner of death?

- *Cause of death* is the specific injury or disease that leads to death. An example of cause of death is atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, also known as heart disease.
- *Manner of death* is the determination of how the injury or disease leads to death. There are five manners of death (natural, accident, suicide, homicide, and undetermined).

Is body donation an option?

Generally, donation must be prearranged before death but sometimes a donation will be accepted after death. Only the legal next-of-kin may grant permission for organ and/or tissue donation. Once permission is obtained, the medical examiner will determine if donation may proceed without compromising the duties of our office. If you are interested in donation of your loved one, please contact the organ procurement organization of your choice for further details regarding the donation process.

Florida State Anatomical Board

www.anatbd.acb.med.ufl.edu
352-392-3588

LifeNet

www.lifenethealth.org
800-847-7831

MedCure

www.medcure.org
866-560-2525

Science Care

www.sciencecare.com
800-417-3747

Are resources available if there are no funds for burial?

Yes. Please see the contact info below to inquire about indigent burial and cremation services.

Escambia County

Indigent Burial / Cremation Program
(850) 595-3130
email: humanassistance@myescambia.com

Santa Rosa County

Lewis Funeral Home
(850) 623-2243

Okaloosa County Indigent Program

Angela Cox (850) 689-5977
acox@myokaloosa.com

Walton County

Clary Glenn Funeral Home
(850) 835-2511

When will the autopsy report be ready and how do I obtain a copy?

When the medical examiner finalizes their report, it becomes public record per Florida Statute, Chapter 119. You may contact our office to request a copy or submit a request through our website.

How do I obtain a copy of the death certificate?

In accordance with state law, a death certificate shall be provided by a funeral home unless an extension is requested. D1MEO does not provide death certificates. Please note that it is common for our office to conduct further specialized testing or investigations to determine the exact cause and manner of death. Depending upon the complexity of such tests or investigations, it may take some time to determine the final cause and manner of death. A pending death certificate will be issued until final certification.

**District One
Medical Examiner's Office**

2114 Airport Blvd, Suite 1450
Pensacola, FL 32504

phone: (850) 332-7300
fax: (850) 285-0774

Lobby Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-4pm

email: contactus@d1meo.org
website: www.d1meo.org

Case Number: _____

Notes:

