

Programs & Services

The District 17 Medical Examiner's Office is comprised of multiple divisions that provide the community with valuable services and programs. Please use the list below or the main navigation for more information about each Division, Program or Service.

Investigations

Goal Statement

The Investigations Division strives to provide accurate medical and legal investigation of the cause and manner of deaths, to provide scene investigation, to communicate effectively with families in crisis, to collect and interpret records, to coordinate efforts with external agencies, to arrange for transportation of bodies and to coordinate efforts with other government and private agencies.

Division Description

This Division is responsible for the investigation of circumstances surrounding deaths as defined in Florida State Statutes 406.11. Activities include death scene investigation, coordination with other agencies, procurement of external records, communication with bereaved individuals, preparation of investigative reports, management of the indigent program and other performance of other roles as needed. The Investigations Division is responsible for logistics of decedents that are accepted as Medical Examiner's cases, including transportation from the death scene to the Medical Examiner facility and release of the remains to funeral homes.

Reporting a Death

Call: 954-357-5200 or visit [Resources and Forms](#)

Pathology

Goal Statement

To integrate the clinical information of past medical history and circumstances of death with evidentiary findings at the scene of death, gross and microscopic autopsy findings and toxicological findings to reliably determine the cause and manner of death in Medical Examiner cases. Based on information obtained from our investigations, to develop and implement programs designed to protect public health and reduce mortality.

Program Description

The Pathology Division is responsible for the death investigation of deceased persons whose circumstances of death are violent, suspicious, unexpected or unattended as enumerated

in Florida State Statutes §406.11. Activities include death scene investigation, external examination, autopsy, laboratory tests, determination of cause and manner of death, preparation of autopsy reports, and other documentation related to the death and testimony in subsequent judicial proceedings. Training is provided to area law enforcement agencies and medical institutions. The pathology section is responsible for proper disposition of decedents coming within the Medical Examiner's jurisdiction, including transportation from the death scene to the Medical Examiner's facility, receipt and storage of the bodies, preparation and assistance at autopsy and release of the remains to funeral homes. Staff also provide expert witness testimony for criminal trials.

Toxicology

Goal Statement

This Division provides County-wide toxicology testing services to the District 17 Medical Examiner's Office and area law enforcement agencies.

Program Description

The Toxicology Division provides toxicology testing as required for the Medical Examiner's Office, law enforcement agencies, county drug addiction recovery centers and the drug court program. Activities include performing alcohol and drug testing for the determination of cause and manner of death, preparation of toxicology reports and other documentation related to the laboratory findings and testimony in subsequent judicial proceedings. Training is provided to area law enforcement agencies and educational institutions. Staff also provide expert testimony at criminal and civil trials.