

LOCAL LAW NO. 10 - 2024

A LOCAL LAW RELATING TO CERTAIN FEES COLLECTED BY THE ONONDAGA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND THE CENTER FOR FORENSIC SCIENCES FOR MEDICAL EXAMINER AND FORENSIC LABORATORY SERVICES, AND FURTHER AMENDING LOCAL LAW NO. 5-2022

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE OF ONONDAGA COUNTY AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Collection Authorized.

Local Law No. 13-2016, amended by Local Law No. 10-2017, Local Law No. 6-2018, Law No. 5-2019, Local Law No. 1-2022, and Local Law No. 5-2022, established a fee schedule for services performed through the Center for Forensic Sciences, collected by the Onondaga County Commissioner of Health, and it is necessary to empower the Commissioner to collect fees imposed by local law, including those authorized herein. The procedures for the collection of such fees shall be as prescribed by applicable laws, as may be amended, or as otherwise determined by the Commissioner.

Section 2. Fees to be Collected.

CENTER FOR FORENSIC SCIENCES - OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER

EXAMINATIONS

Autopsy Examination	\$3,200/case
Partial/Limited Autopsy Examination	\$2,370/case
External Examination	\$1,990/case
Special Autopsy Cases (listed below)	\$4,300/case
Bariatric (BMI greater than or equal to 40) Autopsy Examination	
Homicide	
Initially Pending Manner of Death (age less than or equal to 3 years)	
Infectious (Biohazard)	
Exhumations	
Repeat Autopsies	
Suspected Hazardous Material	
Skeletal Examinations:	
Human Remains	\$3,310/case
Non-Human Remains	\$330/case
Prisoner/Inmate Autopsy Examinations	\$4,850/case

MEDICAL EXAMINER CASE REVIEW / DEATH CERTIFICATION ONLY \$1,070/case

NON-MEDICAL EXAMINER / CASE REVIEW \$445/case

SPECIALIZED TESTING AND CONSULTATIONS: At Cost

- Eye Pathology
- DNA Testing
- Molecular/Genetic Testing
- Mass Fatality Incident
- Cardiomyopathy Testing
- Comprehensive Respiratory Panel

ON-CALL SERVICE* \$885

** On-call service may be requested when an outside county coroner/medical examiner is unable to cover death notifications. The OCMEO will receive all death notifications directly from law enforcement and other agencies to establish jurisdiction on behalf of the county requesting the service. Each date scheduled, regardless of the number of hours covered, will be charged at the flat rate above.*

CASE REVIEW/CONSULTATION

Initial Forensic Pathologist Case Review/Consultation*	\$950/case
Forensic Pathologist Case Review/Consultation, additional hours	\$480/hour
Forensic Investigator-Case Review/Consultation	\$320/hour
Forensic Chemist Case Review/Consultation	\$370/hour
Toxicologist Case Review/Consultation	\$420/hour

** Initial case review requires written authorization from the legal next of kin and a \$950, non-refundable payment at the time of consultation payable to the Onondaga County Health Department Fiscal Officer. Initial payment includes up to two (2) hours case review/consultation. Additional time is billed at the current hourly rate.*

CRIMINAL TESTIMONY

Forensic Pathologist Testimony/Deposition	\$465/hour
Forensic Investigator or Forensic Autopsy Technician Testimony/Deposition	\$310/hour
Toxicologist Testimony/Deposition	\$410/hour
Forensic Chemist Testimony/Deposition	\$360/hour
Non-CFS Consultants	Direct invoice to District Attorney/Other Attorney

CIVIL TESTIMONY

Forensic Pathologist Testimony/Deposition	\$615/hour
Forensic Investigator or Forensic Autopsy Technician Testimony/Deposition	\$465/hour
Toxicologist Testimony/Deposition	\$565/hour
Forensic Chemist Testimony/Deposition	\$515/hour
Non-CFS Consultants	Direct invoice to District Attorney/Other Attorney

SCENE INVESTIGATION

Forensic Investigator Scene Response	\$280/hour
Forensic Pathologist and Forensic Investigator Scene Response	\$500/hour

TRAVEL EXPENSES

Travel Time (portal to portal)	\$160/hour
Mileage (current IRS rate), parking, tolls, meals, lodging	Actual cost and per diem expenses

REPORTS/OTHER RECORDS (Subject to legal restrictions):

Autopsy/Examination Report (includes toxicology)	\$60/hard copy
Archived Report (older than 5 years)	\$150/case

(Additional rush charges incurred shall be billed at actual cost. At the discretion of the Medical Examiner, payment may be required before service is provided.)

IMAGING/HISTOLOGY/X-RAYS:

Autopsy and Scene Investigation Images CD	\$25/disc
Microscopic Slide Recut	\$35/slide

Microscopic Slide Special Stains	At cost
Microscopic Digital Images	\$5/image
X-ray Digital Images	\$20/disc
Digital Copies from 35mm Slide	\$50/request

TOXICOLOGY*

Driving Under Influence – Alcohol & Drugs	\$440/case
Driving Under Influence – Alcohol	\$165/case
Driving Under Influence – Drugs	\$385/case
Comprehensive Drug-Facilitated Sexual Crimes	\$430/case
Postmortem Toxicology (without pathology examination)	\$500/case
Postmortem Toxicology (with pathology examination)	included in the exam fee

** Analyses performed by outside laboratories, including any related discovery fees, will be billed at actual cost for outside counties (excluding postmortem toxicology with a pathology examination where only the discovery fee will be charged).*

CENTER FOR FORENSIC SCIENCES – FORENSIC LABORATORIES

FORENSIC BIOLOGY/DNA

Case Report	\$425/report
DNA Analysis	\$750/sample
Body Fluid Identification Only (e.g. swabs)	\$275/item

FIREARMS

Firearms Analysis without Comparison	\$400/case
Firearms Analysis with Comparison	\$700/case
Case with more than 10 samples will incur an additional charge of	\$90/sample

FORENSIC CHEMISTRY

FIRE DEBRIS

Fire Debris Analysis	\$765/case
Case with more than 5 samples will incur an additional charge of	\$225/sample

DRUG ANALYSIS

Solid Dose Drug Analysis (includes quantitation, if applicable)	\$765/case
Case with more than 5 samples will incur additional charge of	\$225/sample
Cocaine Quantitation	\$150/sample

LATENT PRINTS

Latent Print Analysis - Processing Only	\$400/case
Latent Print Analysis - Full Analysis	\$700/case
Case with more than 10 samples will incur additional charge of	\$90/sample

DIGITAL EVIDENCE

Digital Evidence Extraction/Analysis (hourly with a minimum 2 hour charge)	\$52.50/hour
<i>*Contact lab for case estimate</i>	

CASE REVIEW /TESTIMONY – CRIMINAL (Time billed in 1/2 hour increments)

Court Testimony/Deposition - Expert Witness	\$350/hr
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TRAVEL EXPENSES (Time billed in 1/2 hour increments)

Travel Time (portal to portal) per hour \$270/hr
Mileage (current IRS rate), parking, tolls, meals, lodging Actual cost and per diem expenses

MISCELLANEOUS FEES

File Research/Retrieval Fee (from archive) Actual cost
Photocopies 0.25/page

Section 3. Effect on Prior Legislation.

Local Law Nos. 13-2016; 10-2017; 6-2018; 5-2019; 1-2022; and 5-2022 and any additional local law, to the extent concerning fees for the Center for Forensic Sciences, are superseded hereby, but shall otherwise remain in full force and effect.

Section 4. Effective Date.

This Local Law shall take effect January 1, 2025, and shall be filed pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule Law.

PASSED 10/8/24



I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the legislation duly adopted by the County Legislature of Onondaga County on the 8th day of October 2024.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Jm", is written over a horizontal line.

Clerk, County Legislature