

## Chapter 56. Travis County Policies and Procedures for Out-of-County and Optional Autopsies<sup>1</sup>

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### **56.001 Definitions**

- (a) “Agreement” means an agreement entered into under Government Code chapter 791, the Texas Interlocal Cooperation Act.
- (b) “County Facility” means the location where the county performs autopsies or stores dead bodies.
- (c) “Medical Examiner” means the Travis County Medical Examiner or Deputy Medical Examiner.
- (d) “Medical Examiner’s Staff” means the medical examiner, deputy medical examiner, chief administrative officer, and the medical examiner’s investigators.
- (e) “Out-Of-County Autopsy” means an autopsy performed on a decedent whose death does not fall under the medical examiner’s jurisdiction.
- (f) “Variables” means the name of the county entering into an agreement, the name of the current county judge of that county, and the judge’s complete mailing address.

### **56.002 Authority to Perform Out-of-County Autopsies**

The medical examiner’s staff may use the county facility to perform an out-of-county autopsy if there is an agreement executed by the county in which the dead body is found and from which it is being sent, or with the county in which a suspected crime has occurred, the agreement has not been suspended or terminated, and the appropriate justice of the peace from the referring county ordered it.

### **56.003 Interlocal Cooperation Agreement**

- (a) Agreement Preparation. If a county wants to enter into an agreement, the seeking county shall provide the medical examiner’s staff with the required variables. Within one week after receiving the variables, the medical examiner’s staff shall incorporate them into the agreement form and return it to the seeking county so that the county can present the agreement to its Commissioners Court.

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<sup>1</sup> Chapter 56 was replaced by Travis County Commissioners Court on 7/19/2011, Item 12.

- (b) Travis County Commissioners Court's Approval. The Travis County Commissioners Court must approve the agreement before it can become effective.
- (c) Travis County Commissioners Court to Set Fee. The Travis County Commissioners Court shall set a standard fee for out-of-county autopsies. The medical examiner's office will remit the fee, when paid, to Travis County.
- (d) Filing with the Travis County Clerk. After the Travis County Commissioners Court approves the agreement, an original, executed version of it shall be sent to the Travis County Clerk for filing under the date and agenda request number approving it.
- (e) Other Copies. A second original, executed copy of the agreement shall be returned to the medical examiner's staff for copying; the medical examiner's staff shall then send it back to the seeking county. The medical examiner's staff shall keep at least one copy.
- (f) Agreement Form Amendment. If, for any reason, the agreement form requires amendment or a seeking county requests an amendment, the medical examiner's staff shall first consult with the Travis County Attorney's Office about amending the form.