

# **State of Alaska FY2003 Governor's Operating Budget**

## **Department of Health and Social Services State Medical Examiner Component Budget Summary**

## **Component: State Medical Examiner**

**Contact: Janet Clarke, Director, Administrative Services**

**Tel:** (907) 465-1630 **Fax:** (907) 465-2499 **E-mail:** janet\_clarke@health.state.ak.us

### **Component Mission**

To provide a state-wide system for the medical-legal investigation of unanticipated, sudden, and violent deaths in order to provide accurate, legally defensible determinations of the cause of death and information to ensure appropriate follow-up on all child deaths in the state.

### **Component Services Provided**

This agency provides forensic pathology services statewide. The central facility in Anchorage provides post mortem examinations appropriate for each case referred and includes access to state-of-the-art forensic medical services including not only forensic pathology but also radiology, odontology, anthropology and the services of the Department of Public Safety Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory.

The State Medical Examiner's Office is increasingly being asked to become involved in child abuse cases while the child is still alive to determine if the child's injuries are inflicted or accidental in nature. Additional work will be done in this area.

Additional training and support will be offered to partners in the medical/legal arenas.

### **Component Goals and Strategies**

1. Continue implementation of a state-wide system for the medical-legal investigation of unanticipated, sudden, violent deaths to provide accurate, legally defensible determinations of the cause of death.
2. Perform examinations necessary in deaths subject to investigation.
  - a. Limit complete autopsies only to appropriate cases as determined by the medical examiner and not at the request of other individuals.
  - b. Minimize shipping remains to reduce stress on families and eliminate costs.
3. Train personnel involved in death investigation, including local physicians, state and local police, village public safety officers, etc.

### **Key Component Issues for FY2002 – 2003**

Recruitment of a new Chief Medical Examiner.

Enhancement and strengthening of the Child Fatality Review Team.

Clarification of roles and responsibilities within the State Medical Examiner's office.

### **Major Component Accomplishments in 2001**

Continued developing and implementing a quality assurance system for the State Medical Examiner's Office.

Hired an additional staff medical examiner with a specialty in child deaths.

Moved into new state-of-the-art State Medical Examiner facility.

## Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 12.65  
7 AAC 35

Death Investigations and Medical Examinations  
Embalming

**State Medical Examiner**  
**Component Financial Summary**

All dollars in thousands

Non-Formula Program:	FY2001 Actuals	FY2002 Authorized	FY2003 Governor
<b>Component Expenditures:</b>			
71000 Personal Services	704.3	929.0	962.0
72000 Travel	13.3	7.1	7.1
73000 Contractual	230.8	205.8	205.8
74000 Supplies	68.4	49.3	49.3
75000 Equipment	9.8	43.2	43.2
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Expenditure Totals</b>	<b>1,026.6</b>	<b>1,234.4</b>	<b>1,267.4</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>			
1004 General Fund Receipts	1,009.0	1,234.4	1,267.4
1053 Investment Loss Trust Fund	6.1	0.0	0.0
1108 Statutory Designated Program Receipts	11.5	0.0	0.0
<b>Funding Totals</b>	<b>1,026.6</b>	<b>1,234.4</b>	<b>1,267.4</b>

**Estimated Revenue Collections**

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2001 Actuals	FY2002 Authorized	FY2002 Cash Estimate	FY2003 Governor	FY2004 Forecast
<b>Unrestricted Revenues</b>						
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Unrestricted Total</b>		<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Restricted Revenues</b>						
Statutory Designated Program Receipts	51063	11.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Investment Loss Trust Fund	51393	6.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Restricted Total</b>		<b>17.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Total Estimated Revenues</b>		<b>17.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**State Medical Examiner  
Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2003**

No Changes

**Summary of Component Budget Changes  
From FY2002 Authorized to FY2003 Governor**

*All dollars in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2002 Authorized</b>	1,234.4	0.0	0.0	1,234.4
<b>Adjustments which will continue current level of service:</b>				
-Year 3 Labor Costs - Net Change from FY2002	33.0	0.0	0.0	33.0
<b>FY2003 Governor</b>	1,267.4	0.0	0.0	1,267.4

**State Medical Examiner**  
**Personal Services Information**

	Authorized Positions		Personal Services Costs	
	<u>FY2002</u> <u>Authorized</u>	<u>FY2003</u> <u>Governor</u>		
Full-time	13	13	Annual Salaries	739,454
Part-time	0	0	COLA	20,788
Nonpermanent	0	0	Premium Pay	0
			Annual Benefits	236,983
			<i>Less 3.53% Vacancy Factor</i>	<i>(35,225)</i>
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Total Personal Services</b>	<b>962,000</b>

**Position Classification Summary**

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Administrative Assistant	1	0	0	0	1
Administrative Clerk II	2	0	0	0	2
Autopsy Assistant	1	0	0	0	1
Deputy State Medical Examiner	2	0	0	0	2
Embalmer	2	0	0	0	2
Investigator I	3	0	0	0	3
Investigator II	1	0	0	0	1
State Medical Examiner	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>