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GILA COUNTY
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GILA COUNTY ATTORNEY
1400 E. ASH STREET, GLOBE, ARIZONA, 85501

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT NO. 062813
GILA COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER

THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered into this 7TH day of January, 2014 by and between Gila County a political subdivision of the State of Arizona, hereinafter designated the **County,** and **Mark A. Fischione, M.D.,PLC**, of the City of Scottsdale, County of Maricopa, State of Arizona, hereinafter designated the ***Medical Examiner***.

WITNESSETH: That the Medical Examiner, for and in consideration of the sum to be paid him by the County, in the manner and at the time hereinafter provided, and of the other covenants and agreements herein contained, hereby agrees, for himself, his heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns as follows:

That he is licensed and otherwise legally and professionally qualified to be appointed as Gila County Medical Examiner and Forensic Pathologist for Gila County, Arizona.

ARTICLE 1 – SCOPE OF SERVICES: The Medical Examiner agrees to provide Medical Examiner Services and **Forensic Pathologist Services** to Gila County pursuant to A.R.S. § 11-594, A.R.S. § 11-600, and A.R.S. § 36-861.

Duties of County Medical Examiner

A. The county medical examiner or alternate medical examiner shall direct a death investigation, shall determine whether an external examination or autopsy is required and shall:

1. Take charge of the dead body.
2. Certify to the cause and manner of death following completion of the death investigation, unless the medical examiner or alternate medical examiner determines there is no jurisdiction pursuant to section A.R.S. § 11-593, reduce the findings to writing and promptly make a full report on forms prescribed for that purpose.
3. Have subpoena authority for all documents, records and papers deemed useful in the death investigation.
4. Execute a death certificate provided by the state registrar of vital statistics indicating the cause and the manner of death for those bodies for which a death investigation has been conducted and jurisdiction is assumed.

5. Give approval for cremation of a dead body after a death investigation and record the approval on the death certificate.

6. Notify the county attorney or other law enforcement authority when death is found to be from other than natural causes.

7. Carry out the duties specified under Section 28-668.

8. Carry out the duties specified under Title 36, Chapter 7, Article 3.

9. Observe all policies adopted by the board of supervisors regarding conflicts of interest and disclosure of non-county employment.

B. The county medical examiner or alternate medical examiner may:

1. Assign to a medical death investigator or other qualified personnel all aspects of a death investigation except the performance of autopsies.

2. Authorize forensic pathologists to perform examinations and autopsies. The medical examiner or alternate medical examiner may authorize medical students or residents and fellows in pathology training to perform autopsies under the supervision of a licensed physician who is board certified in anatomic pathology, pursuant to procedures adopted by the county medical examiner or alternate medical examiner. Authorization and the amount to be paid by the county for pathology services are subject to approval of the board of supervisors.

3. Delegate any power, duty or function whether ministerial or discretionary vested by this chapter in the medical examiner or alternate medical examiner to a person meeting the qualifications prescribed in this chapter who is employed by or who has contracted with the county to provide death investigation services. The medical examiner or alternate medical examiner shall be responsible for the official acts of the person designated pursuant to this section and shall act under the name and authority of the medical examiner or alternate medical examiner.

4. Authorize the taking of organs and tissues as they prove to be usable for transplants, other treatment, therapy, education or research if all of the requirements of Title 36, Chapter 7, Article 3 are met. The medical examiner or alternate medical examiner shall give this authorization within a time period that permits a medically viable donation.

5. Authorize licensed physicians, surgeons or trained technicians to remove parts of bodies provided they follow an established protocol approved by the medical examiner or alternate medical examiner.

6. Limit the removal of organs or tissues for transplants or other therapy or treatment if, based on a review of available medical and investigative information within a time that permits a medically viable donation, the medical examiner or alternate medical examiner makes an initial determination that their removal would interfere with a medical examination, autopsy or certification of death. Before making a final decision to limit the removal of organs, the medical examiner or alternate medical examiner shall consult with the organ procurement organization. After the consultation and when the organ procurement organization provides information that the organ procurement organization reasonably believes could alter the initial decision and at the request of the organ procurement organization, the medical examiner or alternate medical examiner shall conduct a physical examination of the body. If the medical examiner or alternate medical examiner limits the removal of organs, the medical examiner or alternate medical examiner shall maintain documentation of this decision and shall make the documentation available to the organ procurement organization.

C. A county medical examiner or alternate medical examiner shall not be held civilly or criminally liable for any acts performed in good faith pursuant to subsection B, paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of this section.

D. If a dispute arises over the findings of the medical examiner's report, the medical examiner, on an order of the superior court, shall make available all evidence and documentation to a court-designated licensed forensic pathologist for review, and the results of the review shall be reported to the superior court in the county issuing the order.

E. For providing external examinations and autopsies pursuant to this section, the medical examiner may charge a fee established by the board of supervisors pursuant to Section A.R.S. § 11-251.08.

F. The county medical examiner or alternate medical examiner is entitled to all medical records and related records of a person for whom the medical examiner is required to certify cause of death.

Burial of Indigent Deceased

A. When a death investigation has been completed by the county medical examiner and no other person takes charge of the body of the deceased, the examiner shall cause the body to be delivered to a funeral establishment. If there is not sufficient property in the estate of the deceased to pay the necessary expenses of the burial, the expenses shall be a legal charge against the county. Upon determination of indigency the funeral establishment shall perform the normal county indigent burial, in the manner and for the fee then being paid by the county, or release the body, upon county request, without fee, to the funeral establishment designated by the county for other indigent burials.

B. Within thirty days after the examination, the medical examiner shall deliver to the public fiduciary of the county or the legal representative of the deceased any money or property found upon the body.

Release of Information

A. The county medical examiner shall release the name, contact information and available medical and social history of a decedent whose body is under the jurisdiction of the medical examiner to:
   1. The designated procurement organization, hospital, accredited medical school, dental school, college or university of an anatomical gift executed pursuant to section A.R.S. § 36-844.
   2. Any procurement organization under procedures adopted by the medical examiner for coordination of the procurement of anatomical gifts.

ARTICLE 2 – FEES: For the services provided by the Medical Examiner under this agreement, financial compensation from the County will be as follows:

$2,200.00 per complete autopsy
$ 170.00 per external examination, cause of death
$ 65.00 per cremation
$ 250.00 per month Malpractice Insurance – not to exceed $3,000.00 without prior written approval from the County

ARTICLE 3 – TERMINATION: Contract shall terminate thirty (30) days after written notice is received by either party to the other. Upon receipt of the notice, work in progress will be completed and any summaries and/or status reports shall be prepared and submitted, all within thirty (30) days. The County's financial obligation shall cover only the work performed up to the notice to terminate plus thirty (30) days, and not work completed thereafter.

In the event that the County has reasonable cause to believe that the Medical Examiner alleged violations of applicable statutes, rules or regulations, alleged breach of contract or alleged misconduct of any nature whatsoever, presents, or may present a threat to the interest of the County or its citizens in receiving competent medical examiner or other related services pursuant to this agreement, County may terminate this Agreement immediately upon written or oral notice to Medical Examiner. Upon such notice, Medical Examiner shall immediately cease to perform the duties customarily performed by a medical examiner except as specifically directed by the County. As of the date of such notice, County shall not be liable for any further payment or performance pursuant to this Agreement.

ARTICLE 4 – INSPECTION OF RECORDS AND PREMISES: Upon reasonable notice, authorized County representatives may inspect Medical Examiner's records related to services provided pursuant to this Agreement except to the extent that any specific records may be deemed confidential pursuant to specific statutory authority. County representatives may enter upon and inspect any facility used by Medical Examiner to perform services as provided in this contract in order to determine Medical Examiner's compliance with the terms of the contract. Medical Examiner agrees to retain all financial records and other documents relating to the services performed pursuant to this contract for five (5) years after final payment of all amounts owed to Medical Examiner or until after resolution of any audits, investigations or other inquiries which may require access to the subject records or documents, whichever is later. County, state or federal officials or other persons duly authorized by the County shall have full access to, and the right to examine, copy and use any such materials.

ARTICLE 5 - INDEMNIFICATION CLAUSE: The Medical Examiner agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless Gila County from all losses, liability, claims or expenses (including reasonable attorney's fees) arising from bodily injury, including death or property damage, to any person or persons caused in whole or in part by the negligence or misconduct of the Medical Examiner, except to the extent same are caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of the County. It is the intent of this section to require the Medical Examiner to indemnify the County to the extent permitted under Arizona Law.

ARTICLE 6 – INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS: The Medical Examiner agrees to take out and keep in force during the term of this agreement at his expense, professional liability insurance, general liability insurance and other insurance(s) as requested by the County with reputable insurance companies acceptable to the County under this agreement.

ARTICLE 7 – ASSIGNMENTS AND SUBCONTRACTS: No rights or obligations of the Medical Examiner under this agreement shall be assigned. No rights or obligations of the Medical Examiner under this agreement shall be subcontracted by the Medical Examiner without approval of the County. All subcontracts shall incorporate the laws, rules, and regulations governing this agreement. The approved subcontracts shall forward copies of such to the County Office of Health and shall retain originals on file.

ARTICLE 8 – LEGAL ARIZONA WORKERS ACT COMPLIANCE: Medical Examiner hereby warrants that it will at all times during the term of this Contract comply with all federal immigration laws applicable to Medical Examiner's employment of its employees, and with the requirements of A.R.S. § 23-214 (A) (together the "State and Federal Immigration Laws"). Medical Examiner shall further ensure that each subcontractor who performs any work for the Medical Examiner under this contract likewise complies with the State and Federal Immigration Laws. County shall have the right at any time to inspect the books and records of the Medical Examiner and any subcontractor in order to verify such party's compliance with the State and Federal Immigration Laws.

Any breach of Medical Examiner's or any subcontractor's warranty of compliance with the State and Federal Immigration Laws, or of any other provision of this section, shall be deemed to be a material breach of this Contract subjecting the Medical Examiner to penalties up to and including suspension or termination of this Contract. If the breach is by a subcontractor, and the subcontract is suspended or terminated as a result, the Medical Examiner shall be required to take such steps as may be necessary to either self-perform the services that would have been provided under the subcontract or retain a replacement subcontractor as soon as possible so as not to delay project completion.

The Medical Examiner shall advise each subcontractor of County's rights, and the subcontractor's obligations, under this Article by including a provision in each subcontract substantially in the following form:

"Subcontractor hereby warrants that it will at all times during the term of this contract comply with all federal immigration laws applicable to Subcontractor's employees, and with the requirements of A.R.S. § 23-214 (A). Subcontractor further agrees that County may inspect the Subcontractor's books and records to insure that Subcontractor is in compliance with these requirements. Any breach of this paragraph by Subcontractor will be deemed to be a material breach of this contract subjecting Subcontractor to penalties up to and including suspension or termination of this contract."

ARTICLE 9 – LAWS AND ORDINANCES: This agreement shall be enforced under the laws of the State of Arizona. The Medical Examiner shall maintain in current status all Federal, State and Local licenses and permits required for the operation of the business conducted by the Medical Examiner. The Medical Examiner shall comply with the applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (Public Law 101-336, 42 U.S.C. 12101-12213) and applicable federal regulations under the Act.

ARTICLE 10 – CANCELLATION: This agreement is subject to cancellation pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-511, the pertinent provisions of which are incorporated herein by reference. If the Agreement is terminated, the county shall be liable only for payment for services rendered by the County before the effective date of termination.

ARTICLE 11 – TERM: The term of the contract shall commence on the date the contract is approved by the Board of Supervisors, and continue in full force and effect for one year, unless terminated, canceled or extended as otherwise provided herein. The Medical Examiner agrees that Gila County shall have the right, at its sole option, to renew the contract for three (3) additional one (1) year periods. In the event the County exercises such a right, all terms, conditions and provisions of the original contract shall remain the same and apply during the renewal period.

ARTICLE 12 – PAYMENT: The Medical Examiner shall be paid pursuant to the fees stated in Article 2 of this agreement, but in no event shall payment exceed $30,000.00 for each of the one year contract terms, without prior written approval from the County.

Gila County employs a "Net 15" payment term for professional services meaning the payment will be issued fifteen (15) days from the date the County receives the invoice from the Medical Examiner. Purchase orders sent to the Medical Examiner reflect these terms and conditions and they apply to all invoices received by the County.

The Medical Examiner shall have a current I.R.S. W-9 form on file with the County unless not required by law. The County shall not remit payment if the Medical Examiner does not have a current W-9

Invoices
All invoices shall be submitted to Gila County Accounts Payable at 1400 E. Ash St., Globe, Arizona 85501, and contain the purchase order number, contract number, and description of services performed. Invoices may be emailed to accountspayable@co.gila.az.us .

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, *three (3) identical counterparts of this contract, each which shall include original signatures and for all purposes be deemed an original thereof, have been duly executed by the parties hereinabove named, on the date and year first above written.*

GILA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Michael A. Pastor, Chairman Board of Supervisors

MEDICAL EXAMINER

Mark A. Fischione, M.D., PLC

ATTEST:

Marian Sheppard, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Bryan B. Chambers, Deputy Attorney Principal
For Bradley D. Beauchamp, County Attorney