LOCAL LAW NO. _____ - 2026

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

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 Nos. 10-2017, 6-2018, 5-2019, 1-2022, 5-2022, 10-2024, and 10-2025, 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	$3,300/case
Partial/Limited Autopsy Examination	$2,400/case
External Examination	$2,050/case
Special Autopsy Cases (listed below)	$4,400/case
Bariatric (BMI greater than or equal to 40) Autopsy Examination	
Suspicious Deaths	
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	$3,380/case
Non-Human Remains	$340/case
Prisoner/Inmate Autopsy Examinations	$5,000/case
MEDICAL EXAMINER CASE REVIEW / DEATH CERTIFICATION ONLY	$1,100/case
NON-MEDICAL EXAMINER / CASE REVIEW	$455/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*	$980/case
Forensic Pathologist Case Review/Consultation, additional hours	$495/hour
Forensic Investigator-Case Review/Consultation	$330/hour
Forensic Chemist Case Review/Consultation	$380/hour
Toxicologist Case Review/Consultation	$430/hour

** Initial case review requires written authorization from the legal next of kin and a $980 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	$475/hour
Forensic Investigator or Forensic Autopsy Technician Testimony/Deposition	$320/hour
Toxicologist Testimony/Deposition	$420/hour
Forensic Chemist Testimony/Deposition	$370/hour
Non-CFS Consultants	Direct invoice to District Attorney/Other Attorney

CIVIL TESTIMONY

Forensic Pathologist Testimony/Deposition	$630/hour
Forensic Investigator or Forensic Autopsy Technician Testimony/Deposition	$480/hour
Toxicologist Testimony/Deposition	$580/hour
Forensic Chemist Testimony/Deposition	$530/hour
Non-CFS Consultants	Direct invoice to District Attorney/Other Attorney

SCENE INVESTIGATION

Forensic Investigator Scene Response	$285/hour
Forensic Pathologist and Forensic Investigator Scene Response	$515/hour

TRAVEL EXPENSES

Travel Time (portal to portal)	$160/hour
Mileage (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	$450/case
Driving Under Influence – Alcohol	$170/case
Driving Under Influence – Drugs	$395/case
Comprehensive Drug-Facilitated Sexual Crimes	$440/case
Postmortem Toxicology (without pathology examination)	$515/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).*

Section 3. Effect on Prior Legislation.

Local Law Nos. 13-2016, 10-2017, 6-2018, 5-2019, 1-2022, 5-2022, 10-2024, and 10-2025, and any other resolution or local law to the extent concerning fees for the Center for Forensic Sciences, as set forth herein, are superseded hereby, but shall otherwise remain in full force and effect.

Section 4. Effective Date.

This Local Law shall take effect January 1, 2027, and shall be filed pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule Law.

ADOPTED: 10/6/2026

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 6th day of October 2026.

Clerk, County Legislature