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**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER  
BOARD OF MEDICOLEGAL INVESTIGATIONS**

Fellow Oklahoma Death Care Personnel:

For those of you whom I have not had the pleasure to meet, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Timothy Dwyer I am the Chief Investigator for your Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. I have been in this capacity for only a few short months, but I have been employed with the office as a death investigator since May of 2002. Prior to that, I worked in the funeral industry at a mortuary service that did over 3000 cases per year. I am also a graduate of the Funeral Service Department at the University of Central Oklahoma. As you can see, I have been on both sides of the fence and I have an open perspective of both our agency and the funeral industry.

Recently, I have been working with the Oklahoma Funeral Board to address some issues and road blocks that have been between our agency and the funeral industry. Most of these issues can be summarized as a lack of and/or improper communication from both sides. It is my hope to resolve them and advance a positive professional working relationship.

A common complaint we get from the funeral industry is the turn around time on our cremation and out of state permits. In my short time as chief we have gone from one Investigative Assistant (person responsible for the permits) to three. The staff has literally tripled, however we are still at the mercy of the doctors, nurses, and medical facilities which we need to obtain the information from in order to complete the permits. It is not uncommon for our Investigative Assistants to work over 100 permits in a day, which translates to them having to speak with over 100 medical personnel.

To help expedite the permits please provide accurate doctor and hospice contact information, as well as use the email accounts set up at [permits@ocmeokc.state.ok.us](mailto:permits@ocmeokc.state.ok.us) for all of your permit questions, or use the email account at [records@ocmeokc.state.ok.us](mailto:records@ocmeokc.state.ok.us) for all of your death certificates or reprint questions. This allows the Investigative Assistants to use their phone time contacting doctors, hospice groups, and law enforcement officials.

In addition, I can be reached at [t\\_dwyer@ocmeokc.state.ok.us](mailto:t_dwyer@ocmeokc.state.ok.us). I look forward to the future and hopefully we can all get on the same page and work together on this relationship which will benefit the funeral industry as well as the citizens of Oklahoma.

Yours truly,

  
Timothy Dwyer  
Chief Investigator