



OKLAHOMA FUNERAL BOARD

September 16, 2009

Dear Licensee:

Controversy has been associated with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner since the 1970's when the Chief Medical Examiner performed autopsies in an open field in an effort to draw the attention of media and state legislators in hopes of securing funding for a new facility. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner has since developed a reputation for routinely alienating legislators, law enforcement officials, its own Board of Medicolegal Investigations, and the general public. Recent controversy centers on the failure of the Office to maintain its accreditation through the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) due to shortages in personnel, antiquated equipment, and an inadequate and aging headquarters facility. This was followed by a scandal surrounding a Grand Jury indictment of the agency's former Chief Investigator.

Seemingly, for years the Board of Medicolegal Investigations was non-responsive to the needs of our industry, the public and other state agencies. In the wake of the recent events, a new Board has been seated. This Board has since taken an aggressive role in agency operations, and has requested more frequent meetings, compliance with open records and open meetings statutes, and sought able employees to address the multitude of negative issues facing the Medical Examiner's Office. The current Chief Medical Examiner, Dr. Collie Trant, has been extremely receptive to the Board's involvement in an effort to resolve problematic issues through administrative means. The Board has established a relationship with Dr. Trant that seems to be moving the Medical Examiner's Office in a positive direction.

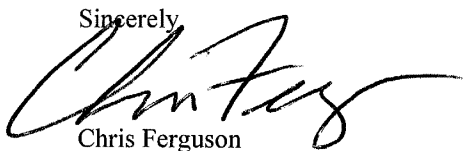
As many of you know, I am the Deputy Director of the Oklahoma Funeral Board. I am also the Funeral Board delegate to the Medical Examiner's Board. As a member of both boards, and as a fellow funeral professional I am asking you to please be patient with the Medical Examiners Office. The office is currently in a state of repair and revitalization. This situation did not evolve overnight and it will take time and money to get it completely turned around. The Board chairman has put together a committee to do an in depth study to identify the deficiencies and to formulate a plan on how to correct them. This study will be presented to both the Senate and House of Representative chambers in the upcoming legislative session.

The office has set up an email account (permits@ocmeokc.state.ok.us) for the funeral homes to email questions, permit status inquiries, body status inquiries, and/or concerns. This will go directly to the permit help desk and I have been assured this will be checked on a regular basis. This system should replace the old system of calling as I have been notified that the new email system is working efficiently and properly.

In the coming weeks, please feel free to contact me with your suggestions or comments. I would appreciate any input you may have been given to me in the form of an e-mail or letter directed to me at the State Board Office.

Again, thank you for allowing me to serve as your Funeral Director Representative to the Board of Medicolegal Investigations. If I can be of further assistance please contact me at cferguson@okfuneral.com

Sincerely,



Chris Ferguson