

Mission Statement

The primary mission of the Office of the Medical Examiner District 19 (OME-19) is to investigate the death of a human being (where the death occurred, or body was found, in Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee counties) as outlined in FS 406.11. OME-19 shall determine the cause of death and shall, for that purpose, make or have performed such examinations, investigations, and autopsies as he or she shall deem necessary or as shall be requested by the state attorney. OME-19 will strive to complete this mission in a thorough, expeditious, diligent, and impartial manner. All interactions with the decedents and their loved ones and families shall be conducted in the utmost courteous, dignified, and respectful way. Mutual respect and courtesy will be given to all outside agencies which interact with the OME-19 such as law enforcement and funeral and cremation services.

Why is the Medical Examiner Involved ?

A death certificate must be certified for all deaths before final disposition of the deceased can occur. When the decedent has a primary care treating physician and a death occurs from natural causes, the primary care physician can certify the death certificate. If the decedent is not under the care of a physician or the death appears to be suspicious the medical examiner must be notified to begin an investigation and make sure the death certificate is certified.

Our Promise

The Office of the Medical Examiner, District 19 understands that this is a very difficult time. We are available to answer any questions that you may have. Our investigators are on call 24/7. Our Medical Examiners and staff are caring, compassionate individuals, who are here for you in your time of need. Please feel free to reach out to us at 772-464-7378.



Office of the Medical Examiner, District 19



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Fort Pierce, Florida 34981
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Fax: 772-464-2409**

**Website:
www.ome19.org**

**Email:
medicalexaminerreports@stlucieco.org**

[What type of cases is the Medical Examiner required to investigate?](#)

Florida State statute 406.11 dictates the types of cases in which the medical examiner will become involved.

[Where will my loved one be taken?](#)

Your loved one will be brought to our facility located in Fort Pierce where an examination will be performed.

[Do I need to come and identify my loved one?](#)

No. Identification is made by law enforcement . In some cases scientific means may be performed.

[Can I View My loved One at Your Facility?](#)

No. Our facility is not designed to accommodate viewing. Arrangements can be made at the funeral home for viewing.

[Will an autopsy be performed?](#)

The Medical Examiner will determine if an autopsy is necessary to establish the cause and manner of death. Per the discretion of the Medical Examiner an external examination only, may be performed.

[Does permission from the family need to be granted in order to perform an autopsy?](#)

No. Florida Statute dictates that the Medical Examiner is not required to obtain permission to perform an autopsy that falls under our jurisdiction. Religious objections are handled on a case by case basis.

[Is there a charge for an autopsy?](#)

There is no charge to the family for an autopsy from our facility.

[What should I do now?](#)

As soon as possible make arrangements at a funeral home. You will be asked to sign an authorization to release form , which the funeral home will fax to our office. Our office will then coordinate the release with the funeral home.

[How long will it take to get the final report?](#)

The final report will become available once the Medical Examiner has reviewed all the information which may take 6 to 12 weeks. Reports may be requested online at www.ome19.com

[How do I obtain the death certificate?](#)

The Office of the Medical Examiner, District 19 does not provide death certificates. The funeral home will provide death certificates, or a copy may be obtained through the Office of Vital Statistics at 904-359-6900.

[Resources For The Family](#)

Our office is committed to treating your loved one with the respect and dignity that they deserve. We understand that death is the most difficult occurrence that a family will face. Below are some resources to help in your time of need.

Grief Support

Treasure Coast Hospice
Phone: 772-403-4500

[Grief Support | Treasure Coast Hospice, FL \(treasurehealth.org\)](http://treasurehealth.org)

[Bereavement & Grief Support | Community Hospice \(myhospice.org\)](http://myhospice.org)

REHABSPOT
www.rehabspot.com/treatment/co-occurring-disorders/grief-and-addiction

24 Hour Crisis Lifeline

New Horizons of the Treasure Coast
Phone: 772-468-5600

Dial 988 for Suicide Hotline
Crisislifeline.org

Community Services

St. Lucie County
772-462-1777

Martin County
772-288-5785

Indian River County
772-226-1423

Okeechobee County
863-763-6441

