

## CHAPTER 72

### MEDICAL EXAMINER

#### POWERS AND DUTIES

7200. Medical Examiner, Powers and Duties Generally.

The Jackson County Medical Examiner provided for by the Jackson County Charter shall have all powers and duties granted to or imposed on the office of Medical Examiner by the Jackson County Charter, by the statutory law of Missouri, including but not limited to those enumerated in Section 58.700 et seq. RSMo or by County ordinances including but not limited to those enumerated by the following sections of this chapter. (Ord. 113, Sec. 1.130, Eff. 1-25-73)

C/R: Article V, Sec. 9, 14, Charter.

7201. Power to Appoint Assistants.

The power of the Medical Examiner to appoint assistants and other personnel shall be exercised in accordance with the Jackson County Charter. (Ord. 113, Sec. 1.130, Eff. 1-25-73)

7202. Administer Oaths.

The Medical Examiner shall administer oaths and affirmations, take affidavits and make examinations as to any matter within the jurisdiction of that office, but the Medical Examiner shall not be required to summon a jury of inquisition. (Ord. 113, Sec. 1.137, Eff. 10-25-73)

7203. Records, Medical Examiner.

The Medical Examiner shall keep full and complete records in that office, properly indexed, giving the name, if known, of the deceased persons investigated under this chapter, the place where the body was found, the date and cause of death and all other available information. (Ord. 113, Sec. 1.136, Eff. 10-25-73)

7203..1 Original Report.

The original report of the Medical Examiner or pathologist and the detailed findings of the autopsy, if any, shall be attached to the record of each case. (Ord. 113, Sec. 1.136, Eff. 10-25-73)

7203..2 Records to Prosecuting Attorney.

The Medical Examiner shall promptly deliver to the Prosecuting Attorney of Jackson County copies of all records relating to every death in which, in the judgment of the Medical Examiner, further investigation may be deemed advisable. (Ord. 113, Sec. 1.136, Eff. 10-25-73)

7203..3 Copies.

The Prosecuting Attorney of Jackson County may obtain from the office of the Medical Examiner copies of these records or other information which the Prosecuting Attorney may deem necessary. (Ord. 113, Sec. 1.136, Eff. 10-25-73)

7204. Autopsy.

In cases where, in the opinion of the Medical Examiner an autopsy is necessary, the autopsy shall be performed by the Medical Examiner if the Medical Examiner is a pathologist or by a competent pathologist, as may be authorized and employed by the Medical Examiner. (Ord. 113, Sec. 1.133, Eff. 10-25-73)

7204..1 Filing of Report.

The conclusions drawn from that autopsy shall be filed in the office of the Medical Examiner. (Ord. 113, Sec. 1.133, Eff. 10-25-73)

## DEATHS

7210. Deaths Reportable to Medical Examiner.

The police, Sheriff, law enforcement officer or official or any person having knowledge of a death as a result of or in the manner set forth in Section 7210.01 shall immediately notify the office of the Medical Examiner of the known facts concerning the time, place, manner and circumstances of the death. (Ord. 113, Sec. 1.131 A., Eff. 10-25-73)

7210..1 Reportable Deaths.

When any person dies within Jackson County as a result of or under the following circumstances, the death shall be reported to the office of the Medical Examiner:

a. Violence.

Violence by homicide, suicide or accident;

b. Injury.

Thermal, chemical, electrical or radiation injury;

c. Criminal Abortion.

Criminal abortion including those self-induced;

d. Disease.

Disease thought to be of a hazardous and contagious nature of which might constitute a threat to public health;

e. Sudden Death.

Suddenly when in apparent health;

f. Unattended.

When unattended by a physician or an accredited Christian Science

practitioner, during the period of thirty-six (36) hours immediately preceding the death of the person;

g. In Custody.

While in custody of the law or while an inmate in a public institution; or

h. Unusual or Suspicious Manner.

In any unusual or suspicious manner. (Ord. 113, Sec. 1.131A, Eff. 10-25-73)

7211. Investigation by Medical Examiner.

Immediately on receipt of notification, the Medical Examiner Or his designated assistant shall take charge of the dead body and fully investigate the essential facts concerning the medical causes of death. (Ord. 113, Sec. 1.131A, Eff. 10-25-73)

7212. Witnesses.

The Medical Examiner may take the names and addresses of witnesses to the death and shall file this information in that office. (Ord. 113, Sec. 1.131A, Eff. 10-25-73)

7213. Property on Body, Possession by Medical Examiner.

The Medical Examiner or his designated assistant shall take possession of all property of value found on the body, making exact inventory of that property in the report. The Medical Examiner shall direct the return of the property found on the body to the person entitled to its custody of possession. (Ord. 113, Sec. 1.131A, Eff. 10-25-73)

7214. Objects Useful in Establishing Cause of Death.

The Medical Examiner or a designated assistant examiner shall take possession of any object or articles which, in his opinion, may be useful in establishing the cause of death and deliver them to the Prosecuting Attorney of the county on filing the report of the Medical Examiner. (Ord. 113, Sec. 1.131A, Eff. 10-25-73)

7215. Exhumation of Body, When.

In any case of sudden death or suspicious death after which the body was buried without any investigation or autopsy, the Medical Examiner, on being advised of the facts, may at his own discretion request that the Prosecuting Attorney apply for a court order requiring the body to be exhumed. (Ord. 113, Sec. 1.131B, Eff. 10-25-73)

7216. When Medical Examiner Certify Cause of Death.

The Medical Examiner shall certify the cause of death in any case where death occurred without medical attendance or when an attending physician refuses to sign a certificate of death and may sign a certificate of death in the case of any death. (Ord. 113, Sec. 1.131C, Eff. 10-25-73)

7217. Findings.

When the cause of death is established by the Medical Examiner, the Medical Examiner shall file a copy of his finds in that office within thirty (30) days after notification of the death.

(Ord. 113, Sec. 1.132, Eff. 10-25-73)

7218. Disposition of Body After Examination.

After an investigation has been completed, including an autopsy if one is made, the dead body shall be delivered to the relatives or friends of the deceased person for burial. If no person claims the body, it shall be disposed of as provided by law. (Ord. 113, Sec. 1.135, Eff. 10-25-73)

7219. Cooperation of Law Enforcement Officers.

Every law enforcement officer and other official shall cooperate fully with the office of the Medical Examiner and shall report immediately any death which comes to his knowledge under any of the circumstances set forth in Section 7210.01. (Ord. 113, Sec. 1.134, Eff. 10-25-73)

PENALTY

7230. Penalty, Violation of Medical Examiner Code.

Any person failing to supply the information required by Section 7210.00 through 7216.00 is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by imprisonment in the county detention center for not more than sixty (60) days or by both. (Ord. 113, Sec. 1.138, Eff. 10-15-73)

COMPENSATION

7240. Medical Examiner, Compensation.

The Medical Examiner shall receive an annual salary within the range established for the position in Schedule V to Chapter 2 of this code. (Ord. 98, Sec. 1.61, Eff. 9-10-73; Ord. 1355, Eff. 08/01/85; Ord. 2244, Eff. 11/30/93; Ord. 2344, Eff. 11/03/94)