



515-725-1400

Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner Newsletter

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LEGISLATION

Welcome,

Welcome to the first newsletter from the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner, a division of the Iowa Department of Public Health. We will periodically email you a newsletter to keep you informed about our office's important issues and events.

We have had a tremendous year! We have settled nicely into our new facility. We have been here for about 1 1/2 years, and have found that it really does take about a year to figure everything out. If you have not seen the new facility, I encourage you to visit our website http://www.idph.state.ia.us/do/medical_examiner.asp



Above are pictures of the morgue and the outside of the facility. We are happy to provide tours. Please contact us to set up a time.



This month we are installing specialized software for use by medical examiner offices. The software will improve our current database system and help us track the more than 3,000 death investigations performed in the state each year. We anticipate this will be a lot of work, but look forward to the increased efficiency and power to retrieve the information requested from our office.

Our case load has increased drastically, from 341 autopsies in 2001 to 403 in 2003 and 541 in 2005. We have already conducted 330 autopsies during the first seven months of 2006. Therefore, we are requesting six additional FTEs and the funding of \$238,809.00 needed to support these positions. Our request is necessary to meet the demands of an operation that is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year. However, the department and the governor's office are still developing the budget and we will not know what will be in the final budget request until October. You will receive updates as we receive additional information.

Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner 2006 Statistics (through July)

Cases performed: 333
Cremation Permits Signed: 192
Death Certificates Signed: 173
Homicides autopsied: 15

Iowa Donor Network

Using the legislation that went into effect on July 1, 2006, we have already coordinated four donors with the Iowa Donor Network. One baby donated heart valves, and an adult donated long bones and tissue, as well as corneas through the Lion's Eye Bank. The Recovery Room in our facility has worked well, and we anticipate an increase in the number of recoveries.

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