

**Contract for  
Medical Examiner Services**

This CONTRACT is entered into by and between **Anoka County, Minnesota**, 14341 Rhinestone St NW, Ramsey, MN 55303 and **Pine County, Minnesota**, 635 Northridge Drive NW, Pine City, MN 55063.

RECITALS:

- 1.) Anoka County has appointed Dr. A. Quinn Strobl, Medical Examiner, who is a Doctor of Medicine licensed to practice medicine in the state of Minnesota and a forensic pathologist certified by the American Board of Pathology, as Medical Examiner for Anoka County pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 390.33.
- 2.) Dr. Quinn Strobl, with assistance of county staff in the Anoka County Medical Examiner's Office, provides Medical Examiner services as set forth in Minn. Stat. Chap. 390.
- 3.) Anoka County is willing to provide autopsy services to other counties upon terms and conditions as authorized by Minn. Stat. § 390.252.
- 4.) Pine County wishes to contract with Anoka County for the provision of autopsy services to Pine County.

THEREFORE, IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED:

1. TERM.
  - 1.1 This Agreement will commence on January 1, 2022, and will terminate on December 31, 2023. This Agreement will automatically renew for one additional two (2) year period beginning January 1, 2024 and terminate on December 31, 2025.
  - 1.2 This Agreement may be terminated early as provided in Section 6. TERMINATION.
2. SERVICES.
  - 2.1 Upon request, Anoka County will provide services as described in Attachment A, which is incorporated into and made a part of this Agreement.
3. COMPENSATION.
  - 3.1 Pine County will pay Anoka County, as compensation for autopsy services provided annually, the amount of **\$50,000.00**, to be billed and paid quarterly in the amount of **\$12,500**. Additional fees may be incurred for neuropathology or cardiac consultations as outlined in the Anoka County Fee Schedule. Additionally, Pine County will pay a monthly administrative fee of \$125.00 to cover the costs of training and coordination of and response to information requests. This amount shall be paid quarterly.

3.2 The agreed upon compensation is based upon an average of twenty- five (25) autopsies per year at \$2,000.00 per autopsy. Compensation for renewals of this agreement under section 1.1 may be increased or decreased accordingly by written agreement by both parties.

3.3 If a catastrophic event occurs that requires significantly more than the normal services, Pine County will reimburse Anoka for the actual cost of additional expenses incurred in performing the duties herein. Catastrophic event shall be defined as one where multiple deaths (5 or more) occur from a single event. If the parties dispute the amount of additional expenses, they hereby agree to (1) use mediation to resolve their difference, and if that fails, (2) to submit in binding arbitration in accordance with the practices and terms of the American Arbitration Association. Mediators and Arbitrators shall be picked by agreement, or failing that, each party shall choose one, who shall then meet and choose the actual arbitrator or mediator. Each party shall pay one-half the cost of the entire process.

3.4 In addition to the base amount, Anoka County may also charge for legal time incurred, as a result of cases processed, according to its standard fee schedule. This fee may include preparation time, meetings with attorneys and actual court time.

4. AUDITS, REPORTS, RECORDS, DISCLOSURES, AND MONITORING.

4.1 Anoka County will maintain appropriate records related to services provided under this Agreement. In the event this Agreement terminates, Anoka County will turn over to Pine County all records in its possession relating to services provided pursuant to this and previous agreements.

4.2 Anoka County agrees to allow Pine County, the State Auditor or legislative authority, or any of their duly authorized representatives at any time during normal business hours, and as often as they may deem reasonably necessary, access to and the right to examine, audit, excerpt, and transcribe any books, documents, papers, records, etc., and accounting procedures and practices of Anoka County that are relevant to this Agreement, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 16C.05, subd. 5.

5. STANDARDS AND LICENSES

5.1 Anoka County will provide services only with those personnel who are properly licensed by the State of Minnesota (or other regulatory authority).

5.2 Anoka County will comply with all applicable federal and state statutes and regulations as well as local ordinances now in effect or hereafter adopted.

6. TERMINATION.

6.1 This Contract will terminate under the following circumstances:

6.1.1 by the parties' mutual written agreement;

- 6.1.2 upon at least 3 months written notice specifying the termination date, given by either party, with or without cause;
- 6.1.3 if a party is in breach of a material obligation under this Agreement and has not cured the breach within 15 days of written notice specifying the breach, this Agreement will terminate immediately unless the other party consents to extend the cure period, which consent will not be unreasonably withheld so long as the breaching party has commenced cure during the 15 day notice period and pursues cure of the breach in good faith.
- 6.1.4 automatically without notice on December 31, 2025.
- 6.2 Termination of this Agreement shall not limit either party from pursuing any other remedies available to it, including injunctive relief, nor shall termination relieve Pine County of its obligation to pay all charges that accrued prior to such termination.
- 6.3 The parties' rights and obligations under this Agreement shall survive termination of this Agreement.
- 7. DATA PRACTICES.
  - 7.1 Anoka County is required to comply with the provisions of the Minnesota government data practices act, Minn. Stat. Ch. 13, in collecting creating, receiving, maintaining, disseminating, or using data for any purpose in the course of its performance of this Agreement. Minnesota law governs any data requests as it relates to records created by the Midwest Medical Examiner's Office. If requested by Pine County, the Midwest Medical Examiner's Office will provide notice to Pine County of any requests for data. In the event a question of law arises, Pine County's legal counsel will be responsible for the final decision.
  - 7.2 The parties both agree to abide by applicable statutes, rules, and regulations related to data privacy and as they may be amended.
- 8. NON-DISCRIMINATION.
  - 8.1 The parties agree to comply with applicable federal or state laws and regulations and county policies related to affirmative action and non-discrimination.
- 9. INDEMNIFICATION.
  - 9.1 Anoka County agrees that it will defend, indemnify, and hold harmless Pine County against any and all liability, loss, damages, costs, and expenses which Pine County may hereafter sustain, incur, or be required to pay by reason of any negligent act or omission or intentional act of Anoka County, its agents, officers, or employees which causes bodily injury, death, personal injury, property loss, or damage to another during the performance of services under this Agreement.

- 9.1.1 This duty to defend, indemnify and hold harmless by Anoka County shall exclude any and all negligent or intentional acts of Pine County, its employees, servants or agents.
- 9.1.2 Nothing in this Agreement waives any limitation on liability provided by Minn. Stat. Chap. 466 or Minn. Stat. §§ 3.732 et seq. or any other applicable law.
- 10. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR.
  - 10.1 Nothing in this Agreement is intended or should be construed in any manner as creating or establishing a co-partner relationship between Anoka County and Pine County or as constituting Anoka County or its employees as the agent, representative, or employee of Pine County for any purpose.
- 11. MINNESOTA LAW
  - 11.1 Minnesota laws govern all questions related to the Contract.
  - 11.2 The parties will venue any proceedings related to this Agreement in the Anoka County District Court, State of Minnesota.
- 12. NOTICE
  - 12.1 Notice is to be given in writing and either sent by mail or delivered in person.
    - 12.1.1 Notice for Pine County will be directed to David J. Minke, County Administrator, 635 Northridge Drive NW, Pine City, MN 55063.
    - 12.1.2 Notice for Anoka County will be directed to Shane Sheets, Director, Midwest Medical Examiner's Office, 14341 Rhinestone St. NW, Ramsey, MN 55303.
  - 12.2 Notice served by mail is deemed received 3 days after mailing.
- 13. MODIFICATIONS
  - 13.1 Material alterations, modifications or variations of the terms of this Agreement, shall be valid and enforceable only when they have been reduced to writing as an amendment and signed by the parties.
- 14. MERGER
  - 14.1 It is understood and agreed that the entire agreement of the parties is contained here and that this contract supersedes all oral agreements and negotiations between the parties relating to this subject matter. All items referred to in this contract are incorporated or attached and deemed to be part of the contract.

The parties have entered into this Agreement as of the date of the final required signature.

**County of Anoka, Minnesota**

**County of Pine, Minnesota**

DocuSigned by:  
Rhonda Sivarajah  
27D3CB52C23648E...  
By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rhonda Sivarajah  
County Administrator

By: Stephen M. Hallan  
Stephen M. Hallan, Chair  
Board of Commissioners

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: August 3, 2021

Attest:

By: David J. Minke  
David J. Minke  
County Administrator

Date: August 3, 2021

Approved as to form:

Approved as to form:

DocuSigned by:  
Nancy Norman Sommer  
638AE1E1559A4FC  
Nancy Norma Sommer  
Assistant County Attorney

Reese Frederickson  
Reese Frederickson  
Pine County Attorney

**Attachment A**

Autopsy Services to be Provided

1. Reliable and issue-focused forensic autopsy services on a timely basis.
2. Autopsies performed by forensic pathologist.
3. Compliance with Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals Organization, College of American Pathology, National Association of Medical Examiner guidelines for autopsy procedures. Accreditation by the National Association of Medical Examiners.
4. Assistance in special techniques for positive identification.
5. Toxicology performed by an accredited forensic toxicology laboratory.
6. Record maintenance of photographs, toxicology and basic radiographs.
7. Weekday, weekend and holiday coverage.
8. Timely communication with family, including notification of legal next of kin, and notification to identified attending physician.
9. Notifying next of kin when an autopsy is performed; sending a personalized letter to family to accompany the autopsy report on non-criminal cases.