

I.
TERM

The term of this Agreement shall begin on the date this Agreement is executed by all parties and end on September 30, 2025, unless terminated in accordance with the provisions contained herein. This Agreement shall automatically renew for a one-year term each October 1 through September 30 on the same terms and conditions, unless the parties change any term(s) by written and executed Amendment or the Agreement is terminated by a party in accordance with Section VI of this Agreement.

II.
Duties

A. Request for Service.

1. When a justice of the peace in the Requesting County determines pursuant to Article 49.10 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, that a postmortem examination is necessary on the body of a deceased person who died within their jurisdiction, the justice of the peace may request that the FBCME perform an autopsy.
2. Requesting County may also request service by forwarding an order signed by a Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) warden, District Court, or Governor ordering that a postmortem examination be performed by or at Requesting County's expense. An order not signed by a justice of the peace must be accompanied by a written request signed by Requesting County's County Judge's Office to be considered a Request for Services under this Agreement.

B. Postmortem Examinations. Fort Bend, by and through the FBCME, will perform Postmortem examinations pursuant to Chapter 49 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. In those cases where a complete autopsy is deemed unnecessary by the Medical Examiner to ascertain the cause and manner of death, the Medical Examiner may perform an external examination of the body, which may include taking x-rays of the body and extracting bodily fluids, or tissues for laboratory analysis.

C. Requesting County Responsibilities. Requesting County agrees to perform the following duties:

1. Each request for postmortem examination shall be in writing and accompanied by an order that complies with Section IIA of this Agreement. Fort Bend County and FBCME may rely on any order submitted in this manner as an authorized request of Requesting County. However, the FBCME shall have the discretion to decline any specific request for autopsy for any reason and/or perform an external examination of the body.