



**Medical Examiner Office**

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[www.pbcgov.com](http://www.pbcgov.com)



**Palm Beach County  
Board of County  
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Verdenia C. Baker

Dear Family of the Decedent,

The Office of The Medical Examiner is responsible by law to conduct investigations, perform examinations and/or autopsies and determine the cause and manner of death when a person's death may involve circumstances defined under Florida State Statute 406.11.

Each death that occurs within Palm Beach County that is under the jurisdiction of the Medical Examiner's Office, is assigned a specific Forensic Investigator and Forensic Pathologist. The responsibility of the Investigator and Pathologist is not only to determine the cause and manner of death, but to also assist the family of the decedent with any concerns or questions related to the death. Even though our Investigators operate on a 24 hour a day basis, our normal office hours are 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. Please contact our office at 561-688-4575 during those normal business hours for any questions about specific cases.

Following any investigation by our staff, the decedent will be transported to our office for the required examination. Depending on the time the decedent arrives at our office and circumstances of the death, generally the decedent is ready to be released to a funeral home of your choice on the same or following day. If an autopsy is necessary and has been performed on the decedent, the procedure will not interfere or prohibit any open casket viewing at the funeral home if desired. Our office does not permit the viewing of the decedent by family and/or the public at our facility. Any requests for viewing of the decedent will have to be directed to the funeral establishment.

As family of the decedent, your next concern would be to make arrangements for final disposition and/or funeral arrangements. The legal next-of-kin needs to arrange with a funeral home or cremation service of their choice, for the removal of the decedent from our office. Our office does not handle cremations and/or funerals. We are only responsible for determining the cause and manner of death. We are a County agency responsible for following Florida State Statute 406, and do not charge the family for any of the services we provide, other than a nominal fee for copies of reports and cremation approvals.

If you wish to obtain a copy of the report when completed, please contact Pam Cavender at 561-688-4576 or [pcavende@pbcgov.org](mailto:pcavende@pbcgov.org)

Feel free to contact our office with any questions or concerns during normal business hours.

Respectfully,

The Palm Beach County Medical Examiner's Office