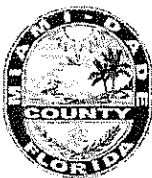


Miami Dade County, Florida



Medical Examiner Department
 Number One on Bob Hope Road
 Miami, Florida 33136-1133
 (305) 545-2400

Sample Request Procedure

These instructions have been sent to you because you recently requested information on how to obtain a blood or tissue sample for independent analysis from a deceased individual investigated by the Miami Dade Medical Examiner Department.

The Medical Examiner Department Toxicology Laboratory is responsible for the storage and security of all samples collected at autopsy and submitted for analysis. All fluid samples are maintained for a minimum of five years before disposal. Next of kin, legal guardians, family members and other authorized individuals can request portions of these samples for independent testing with the proper documentation. To request a sample you will need to submit the following:

1. **A Letter of Request:** Specify the decedent's name, Medical Examiner case number, the specific sample to be released and the name of the independent laboratory performing the testing.
2. ✓ **An Affidavit or Court Order:** That authorizes the Medical Examiner Department to release the sample for testing by an independent laboratory. You will need to do one of the following:
 - If the decedent is, your minor child and you are the legal guardian a notarized affidavit verifying your identity and authorization to release the sample will be sufficient.
 - If you are the legal spouse of the decedent, a notarized affidavit verifying your identity and authorization to release the sample will be sufficient.
 - If the decedent is an unmarried adult, you must provide a court order stating your legal guardianship, verifying your legal right to represent the decedent and a court order authorizing the release of the sample.
3. ✓ **A check for \$50** made payable to: **"Board of County Commissioners"**, to cover processing costs.

In addition, you will need to request that a "retrieval kit" is sent from the independent laboratory to the Medical Examiner Department. This kit should provide all the necessary containers and shipping documents to ship the sample from the Toxicology Laboratory to the independent laboratory. Upon receipt of this kit and the documents listed above, the sample will be prepared and shipped to the independent laboratory.

Send these items to the following address:

Miami Dade Medical Examiner Department
Toxicology Laboratory
Number One on Bob Hope Road
Miami, Florida 33136

For additional information or questions the Toxicology Laboratory may be reached at the following numbers: 305-545-2450 305-545-2452 (fax)

