



**DATE:** October 5, 2021  
**TO:** OCME Divisions  
**FROM:** David Serrano Sewell  
**SUBJECT:** Relevant laws governing the SF Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

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The relevant laws noted below are govern the OCME, as advised by the SF City Attorney’s Office.

<b>CODE</b>	<b>SECTION</b>	<b>TITLE</b>
Civil Procedure	<a href="#">129</a>	Photographs, etc., taken in the course of post mortem examination or autopsy; prohibition against reproduction or dissemination; exceptions; personal liability of coroner
Government	<a href="#">24000</a>	Enumeration of county officers
Government	<a href="#">24010</a>	Medical Examiner; abolition of office
Government	<a href="#">27460</a>	Interment of body
Government	<a href="#">27461</a>	Sale of personalty of deceased to pay burial proceedings
Government	<a href="#">27463</a>	Coroner’s register, requisites
Government	<a href="#">27463.5</a>	Official file in lieu of coroner’s register
Government	<a href="#">27464</a>	Delivery of document directing disposal of property and remains of deceased; filing of copy; delivery of original
Government	<a href="#">27465</a>	Delivery of personalty of deceased to representatives
Government	<a href="#">27471</a>	Locating family; embalming; fee
Government	<a href="#">27491</a>	Classification of deaths requiring inquiry; determination of cause; signature of death certificate; exhumation; notice to coroner of cause of death
Government	<a href="#">27491.2</a>	Examination and identification of body; inquiry into cause of death; disposition of body; violations
Government	<a href="#">27491.4</a>	Sudden infant death syndrome; preservation of medical findings; effect of anatomical gift
Government	<a href="#">27491.41</a>	Sudden infant death syndrome; autopsy; development of protocol; liability
Government	<a href="#">27491.44</a>	Implementation of Anatomical Gift Act; human organs; removal and disposition; identification of donors; informing next of kin to donate
Government	<a href="#">27491.45</a>	Retention of body parts for investigation and training; removal of body parts for transplant or therapeutic or scientific purposes
Government	<a href="#">27491.5</a>	Cause of death appearing on certificate; conformity with findings; determination without autopsy
Government	<a href="#">27521</a>	Postmortem examination or autopsy of unidentified body or human remains; exhumation of deteriorated or decomposed body or remains; procedures for postmortem examination or autopsy; final report of investigation; collection of retention of tissue and bone

		samples prior to cremation or burial of unidentified body or remains; procedures for autopsy or postmortem examination with aid of dental examination
Government	<a href="#">27522</a>	Forensic autopsy; licensed physician and surgeon required, determination of manner of death; notice to person present in autopsy suite; persons permitted in autopsy suite; availability of additional information
Government	<a href="#">27530</a>	Authority of deputy if coroner absent
Health and Safety	<a href="#">7100</a>	Right to control disposition of remains; duty and liability for interment; devolution; prior directions of decedent
Health and Safety	<a href="#">7104</a>	Interment or disposition of remains by coroner; jurisdiction; costs
Health and Safety	<a href="#">7104.1</a>	Interment of remains by coroner; recovery of expenses
SF Administrative Code	<a href="#">2A.250</a>	Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
Public Records Act requests		Consult with Division Manager to ensure compliance with state and local disclosure requirements

This list shall be updated from time to time by the office and can be found in the office network shared drive in the "OCME laws that govern OCME" folder.

cc: Jennifer Johnston, Deputy City Administrator  
Dr. Christopher Liverman, Chief Medical Examiner

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