

s;o coroner:184

COUNTY COUNCIL
Snohomish County, Washington



CO00027407

ORDINANCE NO. 87-042
CREATING A DEPARTMENT OF THE
MEDICAL EXAMINER

BE IT ORDAINED:

Section 1. Ordinance 80-002, Subsection 1, adopted May 1, 1980 and Resolution 80-107, adopted April 2, 1980 codified as SCC 7.56.035 are hereby repealed.

Section 2. The following new chapter is added to Title 2 of the Snohomish County Code:

Chapter 2.74.

DEPARTMENT OF THE
MEDICAL EXAMINER

Sections:

- 2.74.010 Office of Medical Examiner Created
- 2.74.020 Definitions.
- 2.74.030 Authority and Functions
- 2.74.040 Appointment of Chief Medical Examiner
- 2.74.050 Qualifications of Chief Medical Examiner
- 2.74.060 Duties of Medical Examiner
- 2.74.070 Duties of the Coroner assigned to
County Executive
- 2.74.080 Severability
- 2.74.090 Effective Date

2.74.010 Office of Medical Examiner Created. There is hereby created as an executive department a Snohomish County Department of Medical Examiner. The department shall be responsible for the statutory functions of county coroner including but not limited to the performance of autopsies and the investigation of death, as authorized by the statutes of the State of Washington. The department shall

include a Chief Medical Examiner who shall be a pathologist certified or eligible for certification in forensic pathology; and such staff as are necessary to accomplish its duties. The department will be managed and administered by the Chief Medical Examiner.

2.74.020 Definitions. The following definitions shall apply to terms used in this chapter:

(1) "Department" means the Snohomish County Department of the Medical Examiner.

(2) "Chief Medical Examiner" means the Chief Medical Examiner for Snohomish County.

(3) "County personnel system" means those statements of policy and procedure contained in Title 3A of the Snohomish County Code or its successor.

(4) "Exempt personnel system" means the conditions of employment under the provisions of Snohomish County Code Chapter 3.68 and amendments thereto.

2.74.030 Authority and Functions. The department shall perform the functions and duties of the Coroner as set forth in RCW 36.24, RCW 68.08, and other statutes of the State of Washington as are applicable except as set forth in Section 2.74.070 of this chapter. The department's functions shall include but not be limited to:

(1) Jurisdiction over human remains, perform autopsies and perform all other functions as are authorized by statute.

(2) Receiving all statutory notices required by statute to be given to the Coroner.

(3) The title coroner as used elsewhere in this code shall mean the Chief Medical Examiner.

2.74.040 Appointment of Chief Medical Examiner. The Chief Medical Examiner shall be nominated and appointed by the Executive with the advice and consent of the County Council. The Chief Medical Examiner shall serve at the pleasure of the Executive and shall be subject to the county exempt personnel system.

2.74.050 Qualifications of Chief Medical Examiner. The Chief Medical Examiner shall be a physician licensed by the State of Washington and certified or eligible for certification in forensic pathology.

2.74.060 Duties of Medical Examiner.

(a) The Chief Medical Examiner may create divisions and reassign positions and functions within the department, provided that any budget transfers required by such actions are approved by the Executive and the Council and, provided further that personnel assignments and changes shall be made in conformance with the personnel rules and policies of Snohomish County.

(b) The Chief Medical Examiner shall plan, coordinate and manage all operations of the department.

(c) The Chief Medical Examiner shall certify the cause of death in cases under the Medical Examiner's jurisdiction, sign death certificates, determine the need for autopsies and perform or cause to be performed autopsies as needed, investigate or cause to be investigated the cause of violent deaths or deaths resulting from accidents, homicides, suicides, or when the deceased was not under the care of a physician and perform all duties assigned to the Coroner by the laws of the State of Washington now in effect or as hereafter amended, with the exception of those noted in Section 2.74.070 of this chapter.

(d) The Chief Medical Examiner may perform coroner's inquests pursuant to RCW 36.24.020 through 36.34.120, except that he may appoint an attorney to hear inquests where the Chief Medical Examiner is required to give testimony.

(e) The Chief Medical Examiner may be assigned other duties from time to time by the Snohomish County Executive.

2.74.070 Duties of the Coroner assigned to County Executive. Those duties of the Coroner described in RCW 36.24.010 and RCW 6.04.040 ff. giving power to the Coroner to act as the County Sheriff in certain instances shall be exercised by the Snohomish County Executive.

2.74.080 Severability. If any provision of this chapter is held invalid, the remainder of the chapter shall not be affected.

2.74.090 Effective Date. The effective date of this chapter is June 15, 1987.

PASSED this 3rd day of June, 1987.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
Snohomish County, Washington

Alvin Bartholomew
Chairperson

Approved as to Form:

[Signature]
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Clerk of Council

- () APPROVED
- () VETOED
- () EMERGENCY

DATE: June 8, 1987

[Signature]
County Executive

JOHN MARTIN
Deputy Executive

PUBLISHED _____ and _____

ORDINANCE RE: MEDICAL EXAMINER/CORONER - 4