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**Cost Proposal for
Pathologist to Provide Turnkey Autopsy and Related Services for
Hidalgo County at Hidalgo County Forensic Facility**

This proposal is contingent on the Hidalgo County Forensic Center at 3100A S. Business Hwy 281 in Edinburg Texas being fully functional and operational as the County Morgue Facility.

- I. Fees
 - A. Full autopsy (head and body)
 - 1. Natural death: - \$1,500
 - 2. Unnatural or Undetermined Manner of Death: \$1,650
 - 3. Homicides: \$1,750
 - B. Partial – \$1,100
 - C. External examinations – \$1,000.
 - D. Embalmed bodies - \$2,250
 - E. Exhumed bodies - \$3,500
 - F. Toxicology Only Cases- Fee from NMS Labs only
 - G. Non-human skeletal remains
 - 1. 1-4 bones – no charge if no report stating non human remains
 - 2. 1-4 bones - \$25 with report stating non human remains
 - 3. 5-10 bones - \$50
 - 4. Greater than 10 bones with non human skeletal remains report - \$75
 - H. Single body part, small (e.g. finger or toe) with report - \$150 (DNA interpretation included)
 - I. Single body part large (e.g. arm, leg) with report including DNA interpretation (not a suspected homicide) \$250
 - J. Body part(s) suspected to be a homicide or from a kidnap victim- \$1000. This fee will be deducted from the cost of the autopsy if the body is later found.
 - K. Unknown tissue
 - 1. Uncomplicated less than 20lbs with report - \$25
 - 2. Complicated less than 20lbs requiring additional testing with report (human vs nonhuman, sending DNA to University of North Texas, DNA interpretation. (microscopic slides extra) - \$150
 - L. Chart Review
 - 1. Non-homicide \$250
 - 2. Homicide - \$500 includes testimony

- M. The cost of testimony by Dr. Farley on cases other than homicides (e.g. motor vehicle accidents, pedestrian struck by motor vehicle) will be billed to the County at a rate of \$100 per hour. The hourly rate will include time spent on preparation, travel and testimony.
 - N. Review of material and/or testimony at the request of Hidalgo County on homicides or other individuals which were not autopsied by Dr Farley will be billed at a rate of \$100/hour. The hourly rate will include preparation, travel, and testimony.
- II. Autopsy cost includes:
- A. Office manager, front lobby receptionist and administrator for Valley Forensics
 - B. CD of photographs for District Attorney's office and investigating agency on request.
 - C. Transcription costs.
 - D. Testimony for homicide cases at no charge; however, only while under contract.
 - E. Morgue supplies (gloves, knives, aprons, ect.)
 - F. Office supplies including Medicolegal Authorization forms for autopsies and property forms, other than computers, printers and other equipment necessary to assist the Autopsy Technicians, other county staff, and County Contractor(s).
 - G. Locum tenens pathologist as needed or a second full or part time pathologist as the autopsy case load increases.
- III. Fees not included:
- A. Histology and Microbiology
 - B. Toxicology – usually \$162.00 to \$270.00 per case possibly higher depending on the complexity of the case and decomposition of the body (most forensic cases – homicides, excited delirium cases, overdoses, some motor vehicle accidents, etc.). Urine drug screens will be performed on some natural cases.
 - C. X-rays - \$50 per X-ray (maximum charge of \$150)
 - 1. Performed using Valley Forensics, PLLC equipment and supplies.
 - 2. X-rays are performed on every gunshot wound case, stab wound case, skeletonized case (looking for bullets etc), decomposed body, airplane crash victims and infant/small children (to identify fractures).
 - D. Sexual Assault Kit - \$50
 - E. DNA card – When requested by the investigative agency and obtained on all homicides - \$2 per card.
 - F. DNA testing only when needed - usually homicides/decomposed bodies. These cases will be discussed with the Justice of the Peace and District Attorneys Office prior to testing.
 - G. Expert consultation:
 - 1. Neuropathology on infant/child homicide cases with blunt head trauma requiring diffuse axonal injury stains – only a few cases a year. Cost determined by Neuropathologist.
 - 2. Eye pathology – retinal hemorrhage analysis – only if approved by District Attorney after consultation. Cost depends on laboratory used.
 - 3. Dental Odontology – bite mark analysis. Only if approved by the District Attorney.

- H. Physical evidence and ballistics.
 - 1. Collected at the time of autopsy and released to investigating agency (CD of photographs at no charge).
 - 2. Bullets will be released to investigating agency.
 - I. Prints of photographs – \$25.00 to be paid by the requesting agency (CD of photographs at no charge).
 - J. Laboratory analysis when necessary (vitreous chemistry needed on a few infants a year with dehydration or heat stroke victims), vitreous glucose on cases of diabetic individuals when needed, microbiology on suspected infectious cases and infants when needed.
 - K. Maintenance or repair costs not included for any equipment or items not owned by Valley Forensics, PLLC.
- IV. Hidalgo County Forensic Center autopsy facility
- A. Morgue expenses and autopsy technicians (2) are the responsibility of Hidalgo County unless delineated elsewhere in this contract including but not limited to:
 - 1. Autopsy technicians – 2
 - 2. On call personnel for the morgue to answer telephone calls after hours only if the proposed working hours and emergency contact number after hours are not accepted by the County (working hours M-F, 8am-5pm).
 - 3. Security for the building (monitored access) and maintenance
 - 4. Medical/morgue biohazard material disposal, tissue disposal and waste disposal, including sharps (needle) pick up.
 - 5. All utilities for the building, janitorial and IT assistance to include internet service and telephone service.
 - 6. Building and grounds maintenance
 - 7. Towels, and/or towel service.
 - B. Autopsies will be performed at the renovated Hidalgo County Forensic Center.
- V. Forensic services for Counties other than Hidalgo County
- A. If the County and Dr Farley both agree to contract with other Texas Counties to provide autopsies and forensic services, such as currently established with Willacy County:
 - 1. The terms and conditions of the contracts must agreeable to Dr Farley and Hidalgo County
 - 2. Dr Farley will bill separately for autopsy fees and forensic services which shall belong solely to Dr Farley.
 - 3. Hidalgo County would establish a morgue fee for contracted counties for each autopsy performed at the Hidalgo County Forensic Center to compensate for services, including storage of body, autopsy technicians, and tissue and autopsy folder storage.
 - 4. Hidalgo County Autopsy Technicians shall assist the doctor(s) in performance of autopsies and forensic services for all autopsies.
- VI. Transport

- A. Dr. Farley may contract with a third party for the transportation of decedents at a cost not to exceed \$125 per decedent, unless the County contracts with a third party vendor. The transport service under the supervision of Dr. Farley will report information to the morgue facility staff pertaining to the circumstances of each death, the investigative agency point of contact information, and the Justice of the Peace. All paperwork accompanying the body will be faxed to the pathologist or on call staff after hours. This information is necessary in order to determine if a case is suspicious for a homicide and may require additional information from law enforcement, medical staff or family members. Suspicious or homicide cases may need evidence collected, fingerprint identification and/or an autopsy after standard operating hours. More than half of the cases currently coming to the morgue facility have “unknown” circumstances written on the medicolegal authorization form with no other information provided.
- B. If the County contracts with a third party vendor, vendor shall be responsible for the transport and delivery of corpses to the County morgue facility. Vendor shall report information to the morgue facility staff pertaining to the circumstances of each death, the investigative agency point of contact information, and the Justice of the Peace. A thirty (\$30) fee shall be assessed in order to provide personnel to receive the corpse and obtain the necessary information and fax the paperwork on each corpse delivery after hours. A copy of the Justice of the Peace Order(s) shall be provided to the third party vendor, if requested.