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Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
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September 20, 2021

Dear Funeral Home Professionals:

Effective November 1, 2021, the cremation authorization fee will be increased from \$50 to \$100. On September 2, 2021, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner presented to the Virginia Board of Health asking for this fee to be increased and the Board approved in accordance with § 32.1-309.3 of the Code of Virginia. This fee has not been increased since 1974; therefore, we requested the fee increase to compensate medical examiners for the professional time and effort required to complete the necessary examination and document review required for these examinations.

Also, I would like to remind you that when medical examiners are performing a cremation examination, they are expected to undress the decedent and examine the entire body. This is the only way to properly document that there is nothing unusual and/or suspicious about the death. Medical examiners are also expected to review the death certificate and conduct the necessary follow-up with the decedent's physician to clarify medical history and/or any other concerns that they may have. If you observe a medical examiner not fulfilling these expectations, please contact your local OCME district office to let us know.

Thank you again for the professional services you provide to the citizens of the Commonwealth and to our district offices.

Sincerely,

William T. Gormley, M.D.
Chief Medical Examiner