TO: Funeral Directors
FROM: H. Wayne Carver II, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner
SUBJ: Items of interest

Cremation fee
REMINDER: The Commission on Medicolegal Investigations has authorized an increase in the cremation fee from $75.00 to $100.00 per case effective July 1, 2006.

Cases reported to this Office after June 30, 2006, 2359 hours, will be charged the $100.00 rate. Cases reported prior to this time, although the cremation inspection is completed after this time will be charged the $75.00 rate.

Cremation fee billing collections protocol
While the new billing system has been a success, there is an unfortunate downside in that a small handful of funeral services have been unwilling to promptly remit past due fees despite repeated phone calls, faxes and/or dunning notices.

It has become necessary to institute a collection protocol to collect these funds due by state law. Briefly, the collection process includes initial follow-up and upon a 2nd dunning notice, revocation of billing privileges until further notice. In the most extreme instance, soon after the 3rd notice, the account will be turned over to the state collections agency together with a copy of the delinquency to the Department of Public Health Licensure Division for action.

OCME brochures:
Just a reminder, additional brochures are available by contacting us at 800-842-8820 (679-3980 locally) asking for Mr. Luis Torres.

Thank you. As always, please contact this office if we can be of service.

cc: Assistant Medical Examiners