

Ray Fernandez, M.D.
Chief Medical Examiner

County of Nueces

2610 Hospital Blvd.
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Adel Shaker, M.D.
Chief Deputy Medical Examiner

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER



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Date: April 15, 2016

To: Nueces County Judge and County Commissioners

From: Ray Fernandez, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner

RE: Full Accreditation granted to Nueces County Medical Examiner's Office
June 15, 2015 – June 15, 2020

*7/3
Team, we need to
Reassign M.E. office
to Court for this*

Dear Judge and Commissioners Court:

The National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) conducted an onsite inspection of the Nueces County Medical Examiner's Office (NCMEO) in 2015. The office received notification that it had successfully attained full accreditation from NAME. The accreditation process is a rigorous inspection of the facility and review of office practices, including the implementation of policies and procedures. Of approximately 300 Medical Examiner offices in the nation, less than 1/3 have obtained National Accreditation.

The inspection found zero (0) Phase 2 deficiencies, which are considered major deficiencies. The inspection did find seven (7) Phase 1 deficiencies which are counted as minor deficiencies. The office has begun to address the minor deficiencies including hiring a part-time employee that is involved with statistical data documentation, purchase of additional refrigeration for maintaining of samples, and recruitment of doctors for times of mass fatalities, weekend work, or cross-coverage for doctors going out of town for vacation or conferences.

This is the third time NCMEO has received National Accreditation. The first time was November 16, 2004 to November 16, 2009. The second was June 15, 2010 to June 15, 2015. The third is June 15, 2015 to June 15, 2020. The certificates for these three timeframes are included. Also included, are public media reports on this topic.

I commend the County Judge, Commissioners Court, and the staff at the NCMEO for their dedication and collective hard work in accomplishing this National Accreditation three consecutive times.

Cc: Steve Waterman, Director
Laura Garza Jimenez, County Attorney
Dale Atchley, County Auditor
Danielle Hale, Emergency Management Coordinator



The National Association of Medical Examiners®

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Email: name@thename.org

October 12, 2015

Ray Fernandez, M.D.
Nueces County Medical Examiner Office
2610 Hospital Drive
Corpus Christi, TX 78405

Dear Dr. Fernandez:

Congratulations! On behalf of the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME), I want to congratulate you on successfully attaining full accreditation for the Nueces County Medical Examiner Office. The inspection revealed Seven (7) Phase I and Zero (0) Phase II deficiencies. Your accreditation is effective June 15, 2015 and will continue until June 15, 2020, at which time it will expire.

NAME accredited offices represent the highest quality of death investigation system. The citizens can be proud of the hard work, dedication, and leadership made by you and your staff in attaining this accreditation. You are invited to use the NAME logo designating your office as an accredited office.

The accreditation process consists of a rigorous inspection of the physical facility and review of the office practices, including the implementation of policies and procedures. The overall objective of the accreditation is to ensure that the application of the standards set forth by NAME will aid in developing and maintaining a high caliber medicolegal death investigation system for the communities in the jurisdiction in which they operate.

Congratulations on this honor and thank you for your continued support of one of the best medical examiner offices in the country.

Sincerely,

Barbara Wolf M.D.

Barbara Wolf, Co-Chairman
NAME Inspection and Accreditation Committee