

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO AND FORENSIC DOCTORS GROUP, OWNED BY MICHAEL D. HUNTER, M.D.**

This Agreement is entered into this 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2022, by and between the County of San Mateo, a political subdivision of the state of California, hereinafter called "County," and Forensic Doctors Group, PC, owned by Michael D. Hunter, M.D., a Forensic Pathologist duly licensed to practice forensic pathology in the state of California, hereinafter called "Contractor."

\* \* \*

Whereas, pursuant to Section 31000 of the California Government Code, County may contract with independent contractors for the furnishing of such services to or for County or any Department thereof; and

Whereas, it is necessary and desirable that Contractor be retained for the purpose of performing Forensic Pathology Services.

**Now, therefore, it is agreed by the parties to this Agreement as follows:**

**1. Exhibits and Attachments**

The following exhibits and attachments are attached to this Agreement and incorporated into this Agreement by this reference:

- Exhibit A—Services
- Exhibit B—Payments and Rates
- Attachment H—HIPAA Business Associate Requirements
- Attachment I—§ 504 Compliance

**2. Services to be performed by Contractor**

In consideration of the payments set forth in this Agreement and in Exhibit B, Contractor shall perform services for County in accordance with the terms, conditions, and specifications set forth in this Agreement and in Exhibit A.

**3. Payments**

In consideration of the services provided by Contractor in accordance with all terms, conditions, and specifications set forth in this Agreement and in Exhibit A, County shall make payment to Contractor based on the rates and in the manner specified in Exhibit B. County reserves the right to withhold payment if County determines that the quantity or quality of the work performed is unacceptable. In no event shall County's total fiscal obligation under this Agreement exceed three hundred thousand dollars and zero cents (\$300,00.00). In the event that the County makes any advance payments, Contractor agrees to refund any amounts in excess of the amount owed by the County at the time of contract termination or expiration. Contractor is not entitled to payment for work not performed as required by this agreement.

**4. Term**

Subject to compliance with all terms and conditions, the term of this Agreement shall be from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2025, on an as needed basis.

## **5. Termination**

This Agreement may be terminated by Contractor or by the Coroner or his/her designee at any time without a requirement of good cause upon thirty (30) days' advance written notice to the other party. Subject to availability of funding, Contractor shall be entitled to receive payment for work/services provided prior to termination of the Agreement. Such payment shall be that prorated portion of the full payment determined by comparing the work/services actually completed to the work/services required by the Agreement.

County may terminate this Agreement or a portion of the services referenced in the Attachments and Exhibits based upon the unavailability of Federal, State, or County funds by providing written notice to Contractor as soon as is reasonably possible after County learns of said unavailability of outside funding.

County may terminate this Agreement for cause. In order to terminate for cause, County must first give Contractor notice of the alleged breach. Contractor shall have five business days after receipt of such notice to respond and a total of ten calendar days after receipt of such notice to cure the alleged breach. If Contractor fails to cure the breach within this period, County may immediately terminate this Agreement without further action. The option available in this paragraph is separate from the ability to terminate without cause with appropriate notice described above. In the event that County provides notice of an alleged breach pursuant to this section, County may, in extreme circumstances, immediately suspend performance of services and payment under this Agreement pending the resolution of the process described in this paragraph. County has sole discretion to determine what constitutes an extreme circumstance for purposes of this paragraph, and County shall use reasonable judgment in making that determination.

## **6. Contract Materials**

At the end of this Agreement, or in the event of termination, all finished or unfinished documents, data, studies, maps, photographs, reports, and other written materials (collectively referred to as "contract materials") prepared by Contractor under this Agreement shall become the property of County and shall be promptly delivered to County. Upon termination, Contractor may make and retain a copy of such contract materials if permitted by law.

## **7. Relationship of Parties**

Contractor agrees and understands that the work/services performed under this Agreement are performed as an independent contractor and not as an employee of County and that neither Contractor nor its employees acquire any of the rights, privileges, powers, or advantages of County employees.

## **8. Hold Harmless**

### **a. General Hold Harmless**

Contractor shall indemnify and save harmless County and its officers, agents, employees, and servants from all claims, suits, or actions of every name, kind, and description resulting from this Agreement, the performance of any work or services required of Contractor under this Agreement, or payments made pursuant to this Agreement brought for, or on account of, any of the following:

- (A) injuries to or death of any person, including Contractor or its employees/officers/agents;

(B) damage to any property of any kind whatsoever and to whomsoever belonging;

(C) any sanctions, penalties, or claims of damages resulting from Contractor's failure to comply, if applicable, with the requirements set forth in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and all Federal regulations promulgated thereunder, as amended; or

(D) any other loss or cost, including but not limited to that caused by the concurrent active or passive negligence of County and/or its officers, agents, employees, or servants. However, Contractor's duty to indemnify and save harmless under this Section shall not apply to injuries or damage for which County has been found in a court of competent jurisdiction to be solely liable by reason of its own negligence or willful misconduct.

The duty of Contractor to indemnify and save harmless as set forth by this Section shall include the duty to defend as set forth in Section 2778 of the California Civil Code.

## **9. Assignability and Subcontracting**

Contractor shall not assign this Agreement or any portion of it to a third party or subcontract with a third party to provide services required by Contractor under this Agreement without the prior written consent of County. Any such assignment or subcontract without County's prior written consent shall give County the right to automatically and immediately terminate this Agreement without penalty or advance notice.

## **10. Insurance**

### **a. General Requirements**

Contractor shall not commence work or be required to commence work under this Agreement unless and until all insurance required under this Section has been obtained and such insurance has been approved by County's Risk Management, and Contractor shall use diligence to obtain such insurance and to obtain such approval. Contractor shall furnish County with certificates of insurance evidencing the required coverage, and there shall be a specific contractual liability endorsement extending Contractor's coverage to include the contractual liability assumed by Contractor pursuant to this Agreement. These certificates shall specify or be endorsed to provide that thirty (30) days' notice must be given, in writing, to County of any pending change in the limits of liability or of any cancellation or modification of the policy.

### **b. Workers' Compensation and Employer's Liability Insurance**

Contractor shall have in effect during the entire term of this Agreement workers' compensation and employer's liability insurance providing full statutory coverage. In signing this Agreement, Contractor certifies, as required by Section 1861 of the California Labor Code, that (a) it is aware of the provisions of Section 3700 of the California Labor Code, which require every employer to be insured against liability for workers' compensation or to undertake self-insurance in accordance with the provisions of the Labor Code, and (b) it will comply with such provisions before commencing the performance of work under this Agreement.

### **c. Liability Insurance**

Contractor shall take out and maintain during the term of this Agreement such bodily injury liability and property damage liability insurance as shall protect Contractor and all of its employees/officers/agents while performing work covered by this Agreement from any and all claims for damages for bodily injury, including accidental death, as well as any and all claims for property damage which may arise from

Contractor's operations under this Agreement, whether such operations be by Contractor, any subcontractor, anyone directly or indirectly employed by either of them, or an agent of either of them. Such insurance shall be combined single limit bodily injury and property damage for each occurrence and shall not be less than the amounts specified below:

(a) Professional Liability..... \$1,000,000

County and its officers, agents, employees, and servants shall be named as additional insured on any such policies of insurance, which shall also contain a provision that (a) the insurance afforded thereby to County and its officers, agents, employees, and servants shall be primary insurance to the full limits of liability of the policy and (b) if the County or its officers, agents, employees, and servants have other insurance against the loss covered by such a policy, such other insurance shall be excess insurance only.

In the event of the breach of any provision of this Section, or in the event any notice is received which indicates any required insurance coverage will be diminished or canceled, County, at its option, may, notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement to the contrary, immediately declare a material breach of this Agreement and suspend all further work and payment pursuant to this Agreement.

**11. Compliance With Laws**

All services to be performed by Contractor pursuant to this Agreement shall be performed in accordance with all applicable Federal, State, County, and municipal laws, ordinances, and regulations, including but not limited to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and the Federal Regulations promulgated thereunder, as amended (if applicable), the Business Associate requirements set forth in Attachment H (if attached), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in programs and activities receiving any Federal or County financial assistance. Such services shall also be performed in accordance with all applicable ordinances and regulations, including but not limited to appropriate licensure, certification regulations, provisions pertaining to confidentiality of records, and applicable quality assurance regulations. In the event of a conflict between the terms of this Agreement and any applicable State, Federal, County, or municipal law or regulation, the requirements of the applicable law or regulation will take precedence over the requirements set forth in this Agreement.

Contractor will timely and accurately complete, sign, and submit all necessary documentation of compliance.

**12. Non-Discrimination and Other Requirements**

**a. General Non-discrimination**

No person shall be denied any services provided pursuant to this Agreement (except as limited by the scope of services) on the grounds of race, color, national origin, ancestry, age, disability (physical or mental), sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital or domestic partner status, religion, political beliefs or affiliation, familial or parental status (including pregnancy), medical condition (cancer-related), military service, or genetic information.

**b. Equal Employment Opportunity**

Contractor shall ensure equal employment opportunity based on objective standards of recruitment, classification, selection, promotion, compensation, performance evaluation, and management relations

for all employees under this Agreement. Contractor's equal employment policies shall be made available to County upon request.

**c. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973**

Contractor shall comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, which provides that no otherwise qualified individual with a disability shall, solely by reason of a disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in the performance of any services this Agreement. This Section applies only to contractors who are providing services to members of the public under this Agreement.

**d. Compliance with County's Equal Benefits Ordinance**

Contractor shall comply with all laws relating to the provision of benefits to its employees and their spouses or domestic partners, including, but not limited to, such laws prohibiting discrimination in the provision of such benefits on the basis that the spouse or domestic partner of the Contractor's employee is of the same or opposite sex as the employee.

**e. Discrimination Against Individuals with Disabilities**

The nondiscrimination requirements of 41 C.F.R. 60-741.5(a) are incorporated into this Agreement as if fully set forth here, and Contractor and any subcontractor shall abide by the requirements of 41 C.F.R. 60-741.5(a). This regulation prohibits discrimination against qualified individuals on the basis of disability and requires affirmative action by covered prime contractors and subcontractors to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities.

**f. History of Discrimination**

Contractor certifies that no finding of discrimination has been issued in the past 365 days against Contractor by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing, or any other investigative entity. If any finding(s) of discrimination have been issued against Contractor within the past 365 days by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing, or other investigative entity, Contractor shall provide County with a written explanation of the outcome(s) or remedy for the discrimination prior to execution of this Agreement. Failure to comply with this Section shall constitute a material breach of this Agreement and subjects the Agreement to immediate termination at the sole option of the County.

**g. Reporting; Violation of Non-discrimination Provisions**

Contractor shall report to the County Manager the filing in any court or with any administrative agency of any complaint or allegation of discrimination on any of the bases prohibited by this Section of the Agreement or the Section titled "Compliance with Laws". Such duty shall include reporting of the filing of any and all charges with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing, or any other entity charged with the investigation or adjudication of allegations covered by this subsection within 30 days of such filing, provided that within such 30 days such entity has not notified Contractor that such charges are dismissed or otherwise unfounded. Such notification shall include a general description of the circumstances involved and a general description of the kind of discrimination alleged (for example, gender-, sexual orientation-, religion-, or race-based discrimination).

Violation of the non-discrimination provisions of this Agreement shall be considered a breach of this Agreement and subject the Contractor to penalties, to be determined by the County Manager, including but not limited to the following:

- i. termination of this Agreement;
- ii. disqualification of the Contractor from being considered for or being awarded a County contract for a period of up to 3 years;
- iii. liquidated damages of \$2,500 per violation; and/or
- iv. imposition of other appropriate contractual and civil remedies and sanctions, as determined by the County Manager.

To effectuate the provisions of this Section, the County Manager shall have the authority to offset all or any portion of the amount described in this Section against amounts due to Contractor under this Agreement or any other agreement between Contractor and County.

#### **h. Compliance with Living Wage Ordinance**

As required by Chapter 2.88 of the San Mateo County Ordinance Code, Contractor certifies all contractor(s) and subcontractor(s) obligated under this contract shall fully comply with the provisions of the County of San Mateo Living Wage Ordinance, including, but not limited to, paying all Covered Employees the current Living Wage and providing notice to all Covered Employees and Subcontractors as required under the Ordinance.

#### **13. Compliance with County Employee Jury Service Ordinance**

Contractor shall comply with Chapter 2.85 of the County's Ordinance Code, which states that Contractor shall have and adhere to a written policy providing that its employees, to the extent they are full-time employees and live in San Mateo County, shall receive from the Contractor, on an annual basis, no fewer than five days of regular pay for jury service in San Mateo County, with jury pay being provided only for each day of actual jury service. The policy may provide that such employees deposit any fees received for such jury service with Contractor or that the Contractor may deduct from an employee's regular pay the fees received for jury service in San Mateo County. By signing this Agreement, Contractor certifies that it has and adheres to a policy consistent with Chapter 2.85. For purposes of this Section, if Contractor has no employees in San Mateo County, it is sufficient for Contractor to provide the following written statement to County: "For purposes of San Mateo County's jury service ordinance, Contractor certifies that it has no full-time employees who live in San Mateo County. To the extent that it hires any such employees during the term of its Agreement with San Mateo County, Contractor shall adopt a policy that complies with Chapter 2.85 of the County's Ordinance Code." The requirements of Chapter 2.85 do not apply if this Agreement's total value listed in the Section titled "Payments", is less than two-hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000), but Contractor acknowledges that Chapter 2.85's requirements will apply if this Agreement is amended such that its total value meets or exceeds that threshold amount.

#### **14. Retention of Records; Right to Monitor and Audit**

(a) Contractor shall maintain all required records relating to services provided under this Agreement for three (3) years after County makes final payment and all other pending matters are closed, and Contractor shall be subject to the examination and/or audit by County, a Federal grantor agency, and the State of California.

(b) Contractor shall comply with all program and fiscal reporting requirements set forth by applicable Federal, State, and local agencies and as required by County.

(c) Contractor agrees upon reasonable notice to provide to County, to any Federal or State department having monitoring or review authority, to County's authorized representative, and/or to any of their respective audit agencies access to and the right to examine all records and documents necessary to determine compliance with relevant Federal, State, and local statutes, rules, and regulations, to determine compliance with this Agreement, and to evaluate the quality, appropriateness, and timeliness of services performed.

**15. Merger Clause; Amendments**

This Agreement, including the Exhibits and Attachments attached to this Agreement and incorporated by reference, constitutes the sole Agreement of the parties to this Agreement and correctly states the rights, duties, and obligations of each party as of this document's date. In the event that any term, condition, provision, requirement, or specification set forth in the body of this Agreement conflicts with or is inconsistent with any term, condition, provision, requirement, or specification in any Exhibit and/or Attachment to this Agreement, the provisions of the body of the Agreement shall prevail. Any prior agreement, promises, negotiations, or representations between the parties not expressly stated in this document are not binding. All subsequent modifications or amendments shall be in writing and signed by the parties.

**16. Controlling Law; Venue**

The validity of this Agreement and of its terms, the rights and duties of the parties under this Agreement, the interpretation of this Agreement, the performance of this Agreement, and any other dispute of any nature arising out of this Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of California without regard to its choice of law or conflict of law rules. Any dispute arising out of this Agreement shall be venued either in the San Mateo County Superior Court or in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California.

**17. Notices**

Any notice, request, demand, or other communication required or permitted under this Agreement shall be deemed to be properly given when both: (1) transmitted via facsimile to the telephone number listed below or transmitted via email to the email address listed below; and (2) sent to the physical address listed below by either being deposited in the United States mail, postage prepaid, or deposited for overnight delivery, charges prepaid, with an established overnight courier that provides a tracking number showing confirmation of receipt.

In the case of County, to:

Name/Title: Robert J. Foucrault, Coroner  
Address: 50 Tower Road, San Mateo, CA 94402  
Telephone: 650.312.5562  
Facsimile: 650.571.6258  
Email: rfoucrault@smcgov.org

In the case of Contractor, to:

Name/Title: Michael D. Hunter, M.D., Owner, Forensic Doctors Group, PC  
Address: 2109 J Street, Suite 302, Sacramento, CA 95816  
Telephone: 415.905.0304

Facsimile:  
Email: dist14@gmail.com

**18. Electronic Signature**

Both County and Contractor wish to permit this Agreement and future documents relating to this Agreement to be digitally signed in accordance with California law and County's Electronic Signature Administrative Memo. Any party to this Agreement may revoke such agreement to permit electronic signatures at any time in relation to all future documents by providing notice pursuant to this Agreement.

**19. Payment of Permits/Licenses**


Contractor bears responsibility to obtain any license, permit, or approval required from any agency for work/services to be performed under this Agreement at Contractor's own expense prior to commencement of said work/services. Failure to do so will result in forfeit of any right to compensation under this Agreement.

\* \* \*



In witness of and in agreement with this Agreement's terms, the parties, by their duly authorized representatives, affix their respective signatures:

For Contractor: FORENSIC DOCTORS GROUP, PC, OWNED BY MICHAEL D. HUNTER, M.D.

 _____	<u>May 24, 2022</u>	<u>Michael Hunter, MD.</u>
Contractor Signature	Date	Contractor Name (please print)

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COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

By:  
President, Board of Supervisors, San Mateo County

Date:

ATTEST:

By:  
Clerk of Said Board

## Exhibit A

In consideration of the payments set forth in Exhibit B, Contractor shall provide the following services:

Contractor will perform forensic pathology services (autopsies and clinical inspections) for the Coroner as ordered by Coroner and in accordance with the following provisions:

- a. All forensic pathologists of Contractor performing services under this Agreement shall be approved by the Coroner before any services are performed. Contractor shall provide the Coroner an updated list of all forensic pathologists expected to perform services under the Agreement which list shall include the name(s) of the forensic pathologist(s), proof of current medical licensure and board-certification in the field of forensic pathology, and a current resume/*curriculum vitae*. Failure to comply with this requirement shall be deemed a material breach of the Agreement.
- b. All personnel involved in or assisting with Coroner's autopsies will be provided by Coroner.
- c. Contractor shall be available to perform examinations seven days per week on a pre-scheduled as needed basis. The Coroner will notify Contractor by telephone or electronic media including text message or email no later than 8:00 p.m. the day before Contractor is scheduled to perform forensic examinations (for example, by 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, the Coroner will notify Contractor that it will perform forensic examinations on Sunday). Contractor will only be notified if a minimum of two (2) examinations are expected to be performed. If Contractor is for any reason unavailable to perform forensic examinations after receiving notice from the Coroner, Contractor shall immediately inform the Coroner of Contractor's unavailability.
- d. The decision to perform a specialized autopsy (homicide or SIDS), a full autopsy, a limited autopsy, or a clinical inspection / external examination will be at the discretion of the Coroner, the Chief Deputy Coroner, or the Contractor, with the Coroner having final discretion in case of conflict or disagreement. If there are verbal or written objections to an autopsy, the Coroner or the Chief Deputy Coroner in consultation with Contractor will determine what type of examination is to be performed.
- e. Contractor shall submit the form "Autopsy Report to Coroner's Office" at the conclusion of each autopsy or clinical inspection. If data is necessary to complete the report which is not immediately available to Contractor, the form submitted may indicate "deferred." In such cases, the final report will be submitted upon receipt by Contractor of necessary data. Within seven (7) days thereafter, Contractor shall submit a completed face sheet. Complete, dictated autopsy or examination protocols shall be furnished to the Coroner on all cases. The Contractor may use their own protocol template, subject to approval of the template by the Coroner. The protocol shall include a report on the microscopic analysis in cases where Contractor performs a histologic examination. Should Contractor fail to submit required documentation for a given case according to the time limits set forth in this paragraph, payment for pathology services may be withheld until such time as the required documentation is received by the Coroner. A report of preliminary findings shall be furnished the same day as an examination is completed.
- f. Radiographic or other imaging examinations prior to or during the autopsy will be at the discretion of Coroner, the Chief Deputy Coroner, or the Contractor. Such imaging services shall be paid for by County.

- g. In determining cause of death, Contractor may request necessary histology services from an appropriate provider. The need for such services shall be at the discretion of Contractor. Such histology services shall be paid for by County.
- h. Contractor shall provide medical consultation without additional charge in non-traumatic or apparent natural deaths.
- i. PAP smears will be taken by the Contractor in appropriate cases, at the discretion of the Coroner, the Chief Deputy Coroner, or Contractor, with the Coroner having final discretion in case of conflict or disagreement. Processing of any such PAP smears by an appropriate laboratory shall be paid for by County.
- j. In each case where the need for toxicology tests is determined by the Coroner, the Chief Deputy Coroner, or Contractor, Contractor shall collect and submit for analysis to the toxicology laboratory designated by the Coroner the necessary body fluids and/or tissues. All such toxicology tests shall be paid for by County.
- k. Outside consultation by Contractor that is necessary to determine a cause of death will be at the discretion of Coroner, and once approved by the Coroner, paid for by County.
- l. Contractor shall provide medico-legal testimony when requested for Coroner's inquests.

## Exhibit B

In consideration of the services provided by Contractor described in Exhibit A and subject to the terms of the Agreement, County shall pay Contractor based on the following fee schedule and terms:

For any examinations performed by the Contractor on an as-needed basis, payment for the services described in Exhibit A shall be paid by type of examination performed at the following rates:

- Full autopsy shall be paid at a rate of ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$1,850.00);
- Limited autopsy shall be paid at a rate of EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$800.00);
- Clinical inspection (external) and/or review of records shall be paid at a rate of FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$500.00); and
- Specialized protocol (including SIDS protocol and homicide protocol) shall be paid at a rate of TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$2,550.00); and
- Medico-legal testimony at Coroner's inquests shall be paid at the rate of FIFTY DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$50.00) per inquest.

A clinical inspection refers to an external examination and review of case history and medical records. A review of records refers to an accepted non-removal case where the decedent does not undergo any type of physical examination but includes a thorough review of medical records and determination of a cause and manner of death. A limited autopsy refers to a partial internal examination. A full autopsy refers to a complete internal examination including cranial vault examination. A specialized protocol refers to a complete internal examination including cranial vault examination and following specialized protocols.

This Agreement does not guarantee services of Contractor will be required and Contractor will only be paid for services performed, as described above.

No later than the 10th of each month Contractor shall submit to Coroner an invoice for services provided including a list of cases in which autopsies were performed during the preceding month. The list should specify case number, name of decedent, date of examination, and type of examination. Payment by County shall be made no later than the 25th day of the month following the month in which the autopsies were performed.