



Department of Medical Examiner Name Change 2023 FAQs

On June 27, the County Board of Supervisors finalized the departmental name change during its Board Meeting. The procedure will likely be comparable to the change we experienced in 2013, where the name changed from “Department of Coroner” to the current name, “Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner.” Here are some facts to help navigate you through the process.

<p>Was the Department’s name change from the “Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner (DME-C)” to “Department of Medical Examiner (DME)” already approved?</p>	<p>Yes, the name change was approved through a Board motion in November 2019. There was an in-depth assessment and consideration of ramifications prior to approving.</p>
<p>What is the purpose of the name change?</p>	<p>The removal of “Coroner” will offer clarity in our identity by the forensics community and defines us as an unbiased and independent investigative agency, unattached to any law enforcement agency.</p> <p>The Coroner system is usually an elected position associated with the Sheriff’s Department, and is not a physician trained in medicine, forensic medicine, or forensic science. The ME system requires the Chief Medical Examiner to be a physician, certified by the American Board of Pathology in the medical specialty of Forensic Pathology, and experienced in the forensic sciences.</p>
<p>If the name change was decided in 2019, why are we still talking about it now?</p>	<p>There are many moving parts (e.g., legal, fiscal, and operational) to implementing the name change, including ordinance changes and a board motion to change the position names. These processes take time and require a great deal of external stakeholder support. The pandemic and the increase in caseload also shifted priorities delaying the implementation until now. The motion is now ready and will be on the Board Agenda for June 27.</p>
<p>If my classification has the word “Coroner” in it, will this change?</p>	<p>Yes, the following positions will be included in the board motion for change:</p>

Current Title	New Title
Evidence Custodian, Coroner (2297)	Evidence Custodian, Medical Examiner
Coroner's Photographic Assistant (7070)	Medical Examiner's Photographic Assistant
Coroner Investigator Trainee (1636)	Medical Examiner Investigator Trainee
Coroner Investigator (1637)	Medical Examiner Investigator
Supervising Coroner Investigator I (1639)	Supervising Medical Examiner Investigator I
Supervising Coroner Investigator II (1642)	Supervising Medical Examiner Investigator II
Asst Chief, Coroner's Investigations (1638)	Asst Chief, Medical Examiner's Investigations
Chief, Coroner's Investigations (1645)	Chief, Medical Examiner's Investigations
Chief Depy Dir, Med Examiner-Coroner (1008)	Chief Depy Dir, Medical Examiner
Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner (5405)	Chief Medical Examiner
Chief, Public Services Div, Coroner (0933)	Chief, Public Services Div, Medical Examiner
Deputy Coroner (9464)	Deputy Medical Examiner
Hearing Officer, Coroner (9492)	Hearing Officer, Medical Examiner

<p>What other jurisdictions in California participate in the Medical Examiner system?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • San Diego County • San Joaquin County • City of San Francisco • Santa Clara County • Ventura County
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<p>Once the Board approves the motion, how soon will changes occur?</p>	<p>Once approved, we will send all staff the rollout plan with timelines so that staff can see how emails, forms, uniforms, and other things will change, and which manager is responsible for those changes.</p>
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