

# Medical Examiners Commission Meeting

**February 17, 2023**

**Amended 2/14/2023**

Barbara C. Wolf, M.D. • Kenneth T. Jones • Nick Cox, J.D. • Charlie Cofer, J.D.

Robin Giddens Sheppard, L.F.D. • Sheriff Robert “Bob” Johnson

Joshua Stephany, M.D. • Michael A. Barnett, J.D. • Amira Fox, J.D.

## MEDICAL EXAMINERS COMMISSION MEETING

Orlando Marriott Lake Mary  
1501 International Parkway  
Lake Mary, FL 32751  
February 17, 2023, 10:00 AM EST  
**Amended 2/14/2023**

Opening Remarks

Introduction of Commission Members and Staff

Approval of Meeting Agenda and Minutes from previous Commission Meeting of November 4, 2022

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- Election of Chair Brett Kirkland, Ph.D.

### ISSUE NUMBER

### PRESENTER

1. Informational Items:
  - Status Update: MEC Appointments and Reappointments Brett Kirkland, Ph.D.
  - Status Update: DME Appointments and Reappointments Brett Kirkland, Ph.D.
  - District 2, 15 and 22 Medical Examiner Vacancy **Barbara Wolf, M.D.**
  - 2022 Reappointments/Assessments for Districts 15-24 Ashley Williams
  - 2022 Annual Workload Report Megan Neel
  - 2022 Interim/Annual Drugs in Deceased Persons Report Megan Neel
  - 2022 Coverdell Status Update Ashley Williams
  - MEC Bills of Interest James D. Martin, J.D.
2. Organ Procurement Organization Annual Report Ginny McBride
3. BJA Grant Award Leigh Clark
4. Nomination for District 23 Medical Examiner MEC Chair
5. 2023 Coverdell Grant Proposals Ashley Williams
6. Unidentified Deceased Initiative Ashley Williams
7. Mass Fatality Plans **Barbara Wolf, M.D.**
8. NAME Accreditation Barbara Wolf, M.D.
9. Emerging Drugs Bruce A. Goldberger, Ph.D.
10. 2023 FAME Educational Conference Bruce A. Goldberger, Ph.D.
11. Other Business MEC Chair
  - Resolution for Bruce A. Goldberger, Ph.D. **Barbara Wolf, M.D.**
  - **Resolution for Stephen Nelson, M.D.** **Barbara Wolf, M.D.**
  - Conrad 30/Southeast Conference Brett Kirkland, Ph.D.

The next MEC Meeting will be May 19<sup>th</sup> at TBD.

## **MEDICAL EXAMINERS COMMISSION MEETING**

Bluegreen's Bayside Resort & Spa  
4114 Jan Cooley Drive  
Panama City Beach, FL 32408  
November 4, 2022, 10:00 AM CDT

Commission Chairman Stephen J. Nelson, M.A., M.D., F.C.A.P., called the meeting of the Medical Examiners Commission to order at **10:00 AM**. He advised those in the audience that the meetings of the Medical Examiners Commission are open to the public and that members of the public will be allowed five minutes to speak. He then welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Commission members, staff, and audience members to introduce themselves.

### **Commission members present:**

Stephen J. Nelson, M.A., M.D., F.C.A.P., District 10 Medical Examiner  
Barbara C. Wolf, M.D., District 5 & 24 Medical Examiner  
Nick Cox, J.D., Statewide Prosecutor, Office of the Attorney General  
Robin Giddens Sheppard, L.F.D., Funeral Director  
Kenneth T. Jones, State Registrar, Department of Health  
Hon. Charlie Cofer, J.D., Public Defender, 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

### **Commission members not present:**

Hon. Carol R. Whitmore, R.N., Manatee County Commissioner

### **Commission staff present:**

Brett Kirkland, Ph.D.	Megan Neel
James D. Martin, J.D.	Ashley Williams
Vickie Koenig	

### **District Medical Examiners present:**

Deanna Oleske, M.D. (District 1)	Wendolyn Sneed, M.D. (District 15)
B. Robert Pietak, M.D. (District 4)	Jay Radtke, M.D. (District 14)

### **Other District personnel present:**

Dan Schebler (District 1)	Marlon Osbourn, M.D. (District 15)
Tim Crutchfield (District 4)	Lindsey Bayer, M.D. District 5/24)
Jeffrey Brokaw (District 4)	Catherine Miller, M.D. (District 15)
Natalia Belova, M.D. (District 15)	Terrill Tops, M.D. (District 15)
Whit Majors (District 14)	Kayla Mitchell (District 14)
Alessandra Turner (District 14)	Caitlyn Morgan (District 14)
Kim Carroll (District 19)	

### **Guests present:**

Dean Register (FDLE)  
Sue Nelson

**A MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY FOR THE COMMISSION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY FOR THE COMMISSION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 27, 2022 MEDICAL EXAMINERS COMMISSION MEETING.**

### **ISSUE NUMBER 1: INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- New District 22 Medical Examiner: Commission Chairman Stephen J. Nelson, M.A., M.D., F.C.A.P., informed the Commission that State Attorney Amira Fox appointed Dr. Russell Vega as interim District 22 Medical Examiner and will be responsible for the operation of the office going forward.
- Commission Chairman Dr. Nelson announced that former Hillsborough County, District 13 Assistant Medical Examiner Lee Miller, M.D., passed away on September 21, 2022.
- Status Report: MEC Appointment and Reappointments: Bureau Chief Brett Kirkland informed the Commission that the reappointment paperwork for Dr. Stephen J. Nelson, Dr. Barbara C. Wolf, and Mrs. Robin Giddens Sheppard are in the Governor's Appointments Office and they have everything they need for those reappointments. Additionally, Mr. Kirkland reported that the Sheriff's vacancy is still awaiting appointment from the Governor's Office, as well as the State Attorney's vacancy. Mr. Kirkland also informed the Commission that Commissioner Carol Whitmore will be resigning from the Commission on November 22, 2022. The Florida Association of Counties was solicited for recommendations to fill the County Commissioner vacancy and they have provided two names, the Honorable Terry Burroughs, Okeechobee County Commissioner, and the Honorable Kathleen Peters, Pinellas County Commissioner. We are currently awaiting approvals from the Governor's Appointments Office. Statewide Prosecutor, Nick Cox inquired about the sheriff candidates, to which Mr. Kirkland advise there are two, Santa Rosa County Sheriff Bob Johnson and Monroe County Sheriff Rick Ramsay.
- District 2 Medical Examiner Vacancy: Dr. Nelson informed the Commission that there have not been any new developments in District 2. Dr. Jon Thogmartin is still the interim medical examiner for the district. The Medical Examiner Search Committee is still in the process of filling the vacancy.
- 2021 Annual Drug Report: Mrs. Megan Neel informed the Commission that data has been received from all districts and the report is under final review. The report will hopefully be posted to the MEC website within the next couple of weeks.
- 2021 Annual Workload Report: Mrs. Neel informed the Commission that data was published to the MEC website on October 18, 2022. Mrs. Neel stated if anyone would like a copy, they could email her or go to the Medical Examiners Commission website.
- 2022 Interim Drug Report: Mrs. Neel informed the Commission that the deadline for the data submission is November 30, 2022. Mrs. Neel asked that the districts submit the data as soon as possible because she is trying to get the report out sooner. Dr. Nelson commented that he has concerns with 4-ANPP, an illicit manufacturing product associated with fentanyl, being listed on the drug report as a cause of death. He advised that it is pharmacologically inactive and should not be listed as a cause death. Dr. Nelson stated that listing 4-ANPP as a cause of death would be misleading. Dr. Nelson advised that the Center for Disease Control and Prevention stated that there are a number of states that have issued death certificates indicating 4-ANPP associated with fentanyl as a cause of death. Dr. Nelson stated that 4-ANPP is clearly associated with fentanyl but it is a marker for the illicit manufacture of fentanyl and not something a reputable drug manufacture would have in the make of the drug itself. Dr. Nelson further commented that it would be beneficial for the Commission to change the way 4-ANPP is listed in the drug report to be in line with current scientific practice. A member of the audience asked how the CDC was coding 4-ANPP to which Dr. Nelson stated he was unsure.

**A MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY THAT MOVING FORWARD 4-ANPP WILL NOT BE INDICATED IN THE DRUG REPORTS AS A CAUSE OF DEATH.**

- 2021 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program Status Update: Mrs. Ashley Williams reported that there are 16 districts participating in the grant and the allotment total is \$51,440. The awarded packages were emailed to the participating districts on May 17, 2022. Physical copies of the MOUs were mailed by the grant manager to participating districts on May 17, 2022. All participating districts are authorized to purchase items on their expenditure list. Mrs. Williams asked that districts continue to submit their reimbursement request, so far only 4 districts have submitted reimbursement requests.
- Nomination for District 8 Medical Examiner: Dr. Nelson informed the Commission that the District 8 Medical Examiner Dr. William F. Hamilton has retired and the District 8 Medical Examiner Search Committee has completed their search. Dr. Nelson advised that State Attorney Brian Kramer of the 8<sup>th</sup> circuit chaired the committee and it was advertised in a number of publications and there was only one application, Thomas Coyne, M.D. Dr. Coyne was interviewed and he is the committee's recommendation for the gubernatorial appointment for the District 8 Medical Examiner.

**A MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY THAT DR. THOMAS COYNE IS THE RECOMMENDATION FOR THE GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT FOR THE DISTRICT 8 MEDICAL EXAMINER.**

#### **ISSUE NUMBER 2: UNIDENTIFIED DECEASED INITIATIVE**

Mrs. Williams reported the following success story from District 21:

After the skeletal remains of eight men were found back in 2007 in a wooded area of east Fort Myers, authorities have been working diligently to identify them. DNA analyses have helped authorities name three of the men and on Tuesday, they were able to identify a fourth man. His name was Robert Ronald "Bobbie" Soden, Fort Myers Police Department said in a news release. The Fort Myers Police Department Cold Case Unit said Soden was 30 when he was last heard from and investigators were able to tie him to the Fort Myers area around the time of his suspected death. The police department was able to locate relatives of Soden in New Jersey, North Carolina and Washington. In order to properly identify the remains, the cold case unit has been working with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and Parabon Nanolabs, a private DNA analysis company. The company uses a genealogy research program that works with DNA collected from the skeletal remains, identifies a probable person and then investigators contact potential family members to complete the DNA comparison. It's believed that Soden could've been killed by a serial killer active in east Fort Myers in the 1990s. Police said Soden's remains were found in the same area as other victims. Daniel Conahan was known as the "Hog Trail Killer" and identified as a person of interest during the ongoing investigation, Fort Myers police said. Conahan is currently on death row in Florida for a Charlotte County murder in 1996. "Investigators submitted DNA profiles for each of the eight male skeletons to the University of North Texas Center for Human Identification," Fort Myers Police said. "The Database is a national clearinghouse for DNA profiles of missing persons and unidentified dead." Through DNA samples collected from family members of reported missing people, they have been able to identify three of the other skeletal remains in addition to that of Soden. Their names are Jonathan Tihay, Johnathan Blevins and Eric Kohler. "The investigation will not stop until all eight of the victims are identified and their families are notified," investigators say.

### **ISSUE NUMBER 3: EMERGING DRUGS**

Bureau Chief Brett Kirkland, Ph.D., provided the Commission with an update on new drug trends on behalf of Bruce Goldberger, Ph.D. Mr. Kirkland informed the Commission that the toxicology laboratory directors met on Tuesday, October 25, 2022. Mr. Kirkland advised that illicitly manufactured fentanyl, and associated analogs including 4-ANPP, fluorofentanyl, and norfentanyl, are frequently identified in decedents. Cocaine and methamphetamine continue to surge in the state, particularly in combination with fentanyl. Xylazine is a veterinary central nervous system depressant, and when mixed with fentanyl, increases the likelihood of a fatal drug overdose. Also, N,N-Dimethylpentylone is the most prevalent cathinone in decedents. Laboratories should remain vigilant in regards to the emergence of other cathinones. The prevalence of nitazenes and designer benzodiazepines in decedents remains low in the state. The identification of a nitazene in a decedent is often tied the identification of the analyte in evidence seized at the scene. Mr. Kirkland also informed that at the last commission meeting staff was asked to write a letter for the Attorney General in regards to the scheduling designer benzodiazepines. Mr. Kirkland advised that along with the help from Dr. Goldberger and other lab directors, a letter was presented to Commissioner Nick Cox who then presented the letter to the Attorney General. Mr. Nick Cox stated that he has turned over the information to the Attorney General and that he was not sure of the status but could advised that it is being actively worked.

### **ISSUE NUMBER 4: OTHER BUSINESS**

- Mr. Kirkland reported that the 2023 FAME Educational Conference is scheduled to be held July 19-21, 2023 and will be held in Orlando at the Omni Hotel and Resort at Championsgate. The room rate will be \$189 per night. District 8 Medical Examiner will be co-hosting the conference.
- Dr. Nelson presented Commission Member and former Manatee County Commissioner Carol Whitmore with a signed resolution and read its contents into the record.

**WHEREAS**, the Medical Examiners Commission was created in 1970 by the passage of Chapter 406, Part I, Florida Statutes, also known as the Medical Examiners Act; and,

**WHEREAS**, this Commission plays a vital role in support of Florida's criminal justice system, to the families of the deceased in determining the cause and manner of death of their loved ones whose deaths come under the jurisdiction of the medical examiner, and by contributing to the protection of the public health of the citizens of Florida; and,

**WHEREAS**, Honorable Carol Whitmore, R.N. was the elected County Commissioner for Manatee County in the State of Florida, where she served for sixteen years since she was initially elected in 2006.

**WHEREAS**, Honorable Carol Whitmore, R.N. was appointed to the Medical Examiners Commission in August 2013, where she has represented the concerns of Florida's County Commissioners over her term until she left her elected position and,

**WHEREAS**, Honorable Whitmore's years of experience in public service gave her keen insight and highly respected judgment concerning critical medical examiner activities within Florida, and

**WHEREAS**, Honorable Whitmore has not only earned the reputation of being an invaluable resource for the Medical Examiners Commission but she has, above all, earned the reputation of being respectful in her judgments and having boundless enthusiasm for the mission of the Commission.

**NOW THEREFORE**, let it be resolved that this Commission on behalf of Florida's medical examiners, the medical-legal community, and all of the citizens of Florida whom she has served so well, does hereby recognize and commend Honorable Carol Whitmore, R.N. for her dedication, exemplary service, pleasant yet professional demeanor, and the invaluable guidance she has offered to Florida's district medical examiner system in her position as county commissioner representative on the Medical Examiners Commission.

**PASSED AND RECORDED**, in the official minutes of the Medical Examiners Commission meeting on this Friday, the 4<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2022, in Panama City Beach, Bay County, Florida.

- Commissioner Kenneth Jones provided the Commission with an update in regards to the ODA2 Funding. Mr. Jones stated that this is the last year that the Department of Health will be providing the ODA2 to medical examiners and the grant will end in August 2023. Mr. Jones stated that if districts are interested in participating they need to contact the Department of Health and apply.

**With no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 10:27 A.M.**

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[Governor Ron DeSantis Appoints David Osteen to the Dixie County Board of County Commissioners](#) [Governor Ron DeSantis Appoints Christine Vanderpool to the Florida Cybersecurity Advisory Council](#)

## **Governor Ron DeSantis Appoints Seven to the Medical Examiners Commission**

On February 10, 2023, in [Recent Appointments](#), by Staff

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** — Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced the appointment of Michael Barnett, Charles Cofer, Amira Fox, Robert “Bob” Johnson, Robin Sheppard, Dr. Joshua Stephany, and Dr. Barbara Wolf to the Medical Examiners Commission.

### **Michael Barnett**

Barnett is a Palm Beach County Commissioner and an attorney for Shiner Law Group. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Republican Party of Palm Beach County. He has also served as Committeeman, Secretary, and Vice Chair of the Republican Party of Palm Beach County. Barnett earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of South Florida and his juris doctor from the University of Miami School of Law.

### **Charles Cofer**

Cofer is the Fourth Judicial Circuit Public Defender. He is a former Duval County Judge and previously served as the Assistant Public Defender for the Fourth Judicial Circuit. Cofer earned his bachelor’s degree in political science and zoology from Duke University and his juris doctor from the University of Virginia.

### **Amira Fox**

Fox is the Twentieth Circuit State Attorney. Previously, she was the Chief Assistant and Deputy Chief Assistant with the Twentieth Circuit State Attorney’s Office. She is a current member of the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association and the Southwest Florida Police Chiefs Association. Fox earned her bachelor’s degree in economics and international studies from American University and her juris doctor from George Washington University.

### **Robert “Bob” Johnson**

Johnson is the Sheriff of Santa Rosa County. He is a veteran of the United States Air Force and currently serves as president of the First Judicial Circuit Law Enforcement Association. Johnson earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in criminal justice from Kaplan University.

### **Robin Sheppard**

Sheppard is the Funeral Director of Hardage-Giddens Funeral Homes. She is a former Policy Board Member and current member of the National Funeral Directors Association. Sheppard earned her associate degree in mortuary science from Gupton College.

### **Dr. Joshua Stephany**

Dr. Stephany is the District 9 Medical Examiner. He is a current Fellow of the National Association of Medical Examiners and previously served as the President of the Florida Association of Medical Examiners. Dr. Stephany earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of New Hampshire and his Doctor of Medicine from St. George’s University.



**Dr. Barbara Wolf**

Dr. Wolf is the District 5 Medical Examiner and District 24 Interim District Medical Examiner. She is a current Fellow of the National Association of Medical Examiners and is a current member of the American Society for Clinical Pathology. Dr. Wolf earned her bachelor's degree and her Doctor of Medicine from Boston University.

###



Comments are closed.

**Contact Governor DeSantis**

Executive Office of Governor Ron DeSantis  
400 S Monroe St  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
(850) 488-7146

**From:** [Ralph Saccone](#)  
**To:** [Neel, Megan](#)  
**Cc:** [Paul Petrino](#)  
**Subject:** District 15 Associate Medical Examiner Notice of Appointment  
**Date:** Friday, February 10, 2023 12:19:48 PM  
**Attachments:** [District 15 Notice of Appointments.pdf](#)

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**CAUTION: This email originated outside of FDLE. Please use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email.**

Megan,

District 15 (Palm Beach County) has appointed Interim Chief Medical Examiner to Dr. Terrill Tops effective today. I have attached the Associate Medical Examiner Notice of Appointment paperwork for the staff, locum, and cross-coverage doctors.

Please let me know if you need any additional information or documentation.

Thank you

Ralph Saccone, Jr., D-ABMDI  
Forensic Supervisor  
Palm Beach County Medical Examiner's Office  
3126 Gun Club Road.  
West Palm Beach, FL 33406  
Office: (561) 688-4586 Cell: (561) 236-7836 Fax: (561) 233-2168  
<http://www.pbcgov.org/medicalexaminer/>

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**MEC Bills of Interest  
2023 Legislative Session**

1. SB 164 & 165 Controlled Substance Testing (Polsky & Hunschofsky)

The bill revises the definition of the term “drug paraphernalia” in section 893.145, F.S., to exclude certain narcotic-drug-testing products for fentanyl. Effective Date: 7/1/2023

NOTE: some of the ME offices have had difficulty ordering supplies from vendors due to testing supplies being considered drug paraphernalia.

2. HB 273 & SB 404 Public Records/Autopsy Reports of Minor Victims of Domestic Violence (Clemons and Perry)

This bill revises s.406.135, F.S., to include confidentiality of reports of minors whose deaths were related to acts of domestic violence. Effective date upon becoming law.

**From:** [Nelson, Stephen](#)  
**To:** [Kirkland, Brett](#); [Neel, Megan](#); [Williams, Ashley](#)  
**Cc:** [Koenig, Vickie](#)  
**Subject:** District 23 DME Search Committee  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 06, 2022 3:08:47 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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**CAUTION: This email originated outside of FDLE. Please use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email.**

Today the District 23 DME Search Committee completed its work and selected the current Palm Beach DME (Dr. Wendolyn Sneed) to replace Dr. Predrag Bulic.  
SA R.J. Larizza will be forwarding the necessary paperwork once the St. Johns County paperwork is completed to get Dr. Sneed on their payroll as a St. Johns County employee.

One down...

Any status report on Charlotte County?  
District 2?

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Stephen J. Nelson, M.A., M.D., F.C.A.P.  
District Medical Examiner  
10th Judicial Circuit of Florida  
(Polk, Hardee, and Highlands Counties)  
1021 Jim Keene Boulevard  
Winter Haven, FL 33880-8010  
863-298-4600 main  
863-298-5264 fax  
863-687-1344 answering service (24/7/365)

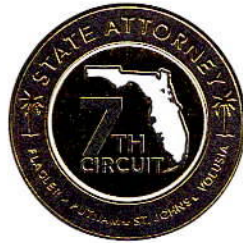


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# OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY

SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA  
VOLUSIA, FLAGLER, PUTNAM & ST. JOHNS COUNTIES

R.J. LARIZZA  
STATE ATTORNEY



251 North Ridgewood Avenue  
Daytona Beach, FL 32114-7509  
Phone (386) 239-7710  
Fax (386) 239-7711

December 19, 2022

Dr. Stephen Nelson  
District Medical Examiner  
10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit of Florida  
1021 Jim Keene Blvd.  
Winter Haven, FL 33880-8010

Re: Dr. Wendolyn Sneed

Dear Dr. Nelson,

After searching for and interviewing for the position of the District 23 Medical Examiner position, it is the committee's recommendation to select Dr. Wendolyn Sneed to fill that position.

The Seventh Judicial Circuit has done a thorough background check regarding Dr. Sneed, a copy of which is being provided to you for review.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, or need additional information, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,



R.J. Larizza  
State Attorney  
Seventh Judicial Circuit

Cc: Lilian Hutchinson, St. Johns County Human Resource Director

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VOLUSIA, FLAGLER, PUTNAM & ST. JOHNS COUNTIES

R.J. LARIZZA  
STATE ATTORNEY



251 North Ridgewood Avenue  
Daytona Beach, FL 32114-7509  
Phone (386) 239-7710  
Fax (386) 239-7711

January 30, 2023

Dr. Wendolyn Sneed, MD  
6046 NW 56 Circle  
Coral Springs, FL 33067

Via Electronic Mail and United States Mail

IN RE: APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT 23 MEDICAL EXAMINER

Dear Dr. Sneed,

Pursuant to Florida Statute §406.15, and as State Attorney of the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, I hereby appoint you as the Medical Examiner for District 23. Said Appointment to commence on February 21, 2023. You will succeed Dr. Thogmartin who has been serving as the Interim Medical Examiner.

I want to congratulate you on your appointment and I am confident you will do well as the District 23 Medical Examiner for Flagler, Putnam and St. Johns County.

Sincerely,

R.J. Larizza  
State Attorney  
Seventh Judicial Circuit

Cc: Governor Ron DeSantis  
Dr. Stephen Nelson, Medical Examiner Commission Chairman  
St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners  
Flagler County Board of County Commissioners  
Putnam County Board of County Commissioners  
Matthew Metz, Public Defender Seventh Judicial Circuit

# OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY

SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA  
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R.J. LARIZZA  
STATE ATTORNEY



251 North Ridgewood Avenue  
Daytona Beach, FL 32114-7509  
Phone (386) 239-7710  
Fax (386) 239-7711

December 19, 2022

Dr. Stephen Nelson  
District Medical Examiner  
10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit of Florida  
1021 Jim Keene Blvd.  
Winter Haven, FL 33880-8010

Re: Dr. Wendolyn Sneed


Dear Dr. Nelson,

After searching for and interviewing for the position of the District 23 Medical Examiner position, it is the committee's recommendation to select Dr. Wendolyn Sneed to fill that position.

The Seventh Judicial Circuit has done a thorough background check regarding Dr. Sneed, a copy of which is being provided to you for review.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, or need additional information, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,



R.J. Larizza  
State Attorney  
Seventh Judicial Circuit

Cc: Lilian Hutchinson, St. Johns County Human Resource Director

## 2023 Paul Coverdell Grant Summary

Total Amount Requested by Districts (11)	\$54,920.55
Total Allotment for Medical Examiners	TBD



**2023 Paul Coverdell Grant  
Requested Expenditure List  
District One Medical Examiner Office**

**Category: Equipment**

The **District One Medical Examiner Office** requests funds to purchase a new hydraulic autopsy cart and three additional fiberglass autopsy trays. One of the current hydraulic carts is worn, malfunctioning and beyond servicing and repair. The fiberglass autopsy trays are lighter and easier for staff to manage and also needed for homicide cases when trying to find a bullet. Additionally, D1 MEO is requesting funds for one Maxair CAPR for fest and evaluation to replace bulkier, older existing PAPRs. The photo intern laptop requested will support an internship program and assists the forensic photographer with tagging and metadata associated with all photographs maintained by the office. Eight waders and eight laser measuring devices will provide additional capability for the investigations department which currently has neither of these items. Waders would help keep investigators dry and warm on water scenes; investigator will frequently go from scene to scene without much time between and waders would ensure that investigators could shield themselves and therefore be less likely to spend a day in absolute discomfort following a water-related death. Laser measuring devices would allow investigators to safely, accurately, and conveniently take measurements on scene. The high-speed duplex scanners will enable the administrative staff to be more effective and efficient as we transition toward more digital records.

<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
1	Autopsy Hydraulic Cart	\$7,075
3	Autopsy Tray, Fiberglass	\$3,025
1	Maxair CAPR Solo Starter Pack	\$2,500
1	Photo Intern Laptop	\$3,099
8	Gator Waders- Shield Insulated Pro Series Waders	\$1,600
8	BOSCH GLM50C Distance Laser Measure – 165ft	\$1,885
2	High-speed Duplex Desk Scanners	\$1,060

**Total Requested Amount: \$20,244.00**

**Staff Recommendation:**

**Total Proposed Amount: \$TBD**

**2023 Paul Coverdell Grant  
Requested Expenditure List  
District Two Medical Examiner Office**

**Category: Equipment**

**The District Two Medical Examiner Office** requests funds to purchase a MOPEC autopsy cart with drain hole. The current cart top was provided by the hospital where the District 2 Morgue was previously housed. It is actually designed specifically for patient transport and not autopsy. We would like to upgrade the cart top to an autopsy tray for more proficient daily use in our new facility.

Quantity	Item	Cost
1	MOPEC autopsy cart with drain hole	\$2,500

**Total Request Amount: \$2,500.00**

**Staff Recommendation:**

**Total Proposed Amount: \$TBD**

**2023 Paul Coverdell Grant  
Requested Expenditure List  
District Four Medical Examiner Office**

**Category: Equipment**

**The District Four Medical Examiner Office** requests funds in the amount of \$2,990.10 in order to support the enhancement of forensic pathology services. We would like to use the funds for the following equipment. Our morgue staff utilizes the MaxAir CAPR and the requested filters will provide respiratory protection.

<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
5	Boxes of MaxAir HE XP Filter Cartridges	
3	Boxes -HEPA + N-OV Charcoal Odor Filtration	
		\$2,290.10

**Total Request Amount: \$2,290.10**

**Staff Recommendation:**

**Total Proposed Amount: \$TBD**

**2023 Paul Coverdell Grant  
Requested Expenditure List  
District Five and Twenty-Four Medical Examiner Office**

**Category: Equipment**

**The District Five and Twenty-Four Medical Examiner Office** requests funds to purchase a mortuary cot and two tablets assist with obtaining digitized information and signatures during the release of bodies. heavy-duty mortuary cot and two autopsy saws. Some of their mortuary cots and autopsy tables are over 15 years old and are in need of replacement due to wear and tear.

<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
1	Junkin Mortuary Cot	\$2,526.00
2	iPad Pro- 9.7"	\$474.00

**Total Request Amount: \$3,000**

**Staff Recommendation:**

**Total Proposed Amount: \$TBD**

**2023 Paul Coverdell Grant  
Requested Expenditure List  
District Six Medical Examiner Office**

**Category: Equipment**

**The District Six Medical Examiner Office** requests funds for the purchase a new digital camera equipment to be used during death scene investigations, decedent processing and autopsy to fulfill their requirements under Florida State Statute Chapter 406 and Florida Administrative Code 11-G. The equipment is essential in being able to perform their statutory duties, and to provide a high level of quality services to the citizens and agencies in the district that the office serves. During the year 2022, the District 6 Medical Examiner office performed 2,384 decedents examinations where photographs were taken to document both the death scene and the decedent in the Medical Examiner Office.

<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
3	Digital SLR Cameras	\$2,399.85
3	Digital SLR Camera Lenses	\$590.85

**Total Request Amount: \$2,990.70**

**Staff Recommendation:**

**Total Proposed Amount: \$TBD**

**2023 Paul Coverdell Grant  
Requested Expenditure List  
District Seven Medical Examiner Office**

**Category: Equipment**

**The District Seven Medical Examiner Office** requests funds for the purchase for three Nikon DSLR cameras. Taking quality scene and autopsy photos is a vital function of the medical examiner. Having the cameras listed below will aid in fulfilling the function. The routine wear and tear of these cameras in the field and in the morgue necessitates the replacement of such equipment.

<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
3	Nikon DSLR Camera	\$2,399.85

**Total Request Amount: \$2,399.85**

**Staff Recommendation:**

**Total Proposed Amount: \$TBD**

**2023 Paul Coverdell Grant  
Requested Expenditure List  
District Ten Medical Examiner Office**

**Category: Consultants/Contracts**

**The District Ten Medical Examiner Office** requests funds for anthropology services. This consultant is needed to aid in the identification of unknown decedents and assist in determining cause and manner of death. Without these services, medical examiner cases would stagnate and not move forward. These services will improve the timeliness and eliminate backlog of medical examiner cases.

<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
1	Anthropology Services	\$3,000.00

**Total Request Amount: \$3,000.00**

**Staff Recommendation:**

**Total Proposed Amount: \$TBD**

**2023 Paul Coverdell Grant  
Requested Expenditure List  
District Twelve Medical Examiner Office**

**Category: Equipment**

**The District Twelve Medical Examiner Office** requests funds to purchase new computer equipment that would facilitate and increase concurrent analytical and data analysis with their newly purchased case management database; and/or upgrade software operating systems that would interface more efficiently with new hardware technology of their current case management database, thus providing better service to the public; and/or apply funds towards their new computer database's CME Software Annual Maintenance fee.

<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
1	Computer equipment/software	\$8,000.00

**Total Request Amount: \$8,000.00**

**Staff Recommendation:**

**Total Proposed Amount: \$TBD**



**2023 Paul Coverdell Grant  
Requested Expenditure List  
District Fifteen Medical Examiner Office**

**Category: Equipment**

**The District Fifteen Medical Examiner Office** requests funds for two MOPEC 1000 Autopsy Saws. The saws will replace the current aged and inoperable saws in inventory, used by Forensic Technicians. This will allow Forensic Technicians to safely and efficiently open heads without risking damage that may compromise the forensic interest during the autopsy. This will prevent potential artifacts events from occurring during autopsy examinations, thus preserving the forensic value. This will be extremely important both at the local level of documentation and in those cases that align with civil and criminal courts.

<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
2	MOPEC 1000 Autopsy Saw (\$2,249.95 each)	\$4,499.90

**Total Request Amount: \$4,499.90**

**Staff Recommendation:**

**Total Proposed Amount: \$TBD**

**2023 Paul Coverdell Grant  
Requested Expenditure List  
District Nineteen Medical Examiner Office**

**Category: Equipment**

**The District Nineteen Medical Examiner Office** requests funds to purchase two MOPEC 1000 Autopsy Saw with Blades. These saws will replace old, outdated saws in current use. New saws will be more efficient and make autopsies easier for the technicians and doctors using them.

<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
2	MOPEC 1000 Autopsy Saw with Blades BD108 (\$2,425.03 each)	\$4,850.06

**Total Request Amount: \$3,000.00**

**Staff Recommendation:**

**Total Proposed Amount: \$TBD**

**2023 Paul Coverdell Grant  
Requested Expenditure List  
District Twenty-One Medical Examiner Office**

**Category: Equipment**

**The District Twenty-One Medical Examiner Office** requests funds for the purchase of four Canon Rebel SL3 Digital SLR Cameras with EF-S 18-55mm Lens Kit. The addition of these four cameras will provide additional cameras for the morgue as caseload has increased. These cameras will provide better photography for autopsy cases.

<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
4	Canon Rebel SL3 Digital SLR Cameras with EF-S 18-55mm Lens Kit (\$749 each)	\$2,996.00

**Total Request Amount: \$2,996.00**

**Staff Recommendation:**

**Total Proposed Amount: \$TBD**