



## PRC-13 Workplace Locations of Board Certified Forensic Pathologists in the United States who Perform Medicolegal Autopsies for Medical Examiner/Coroner Systems: 2012

### Public Comment Report

Created by SWGMDI's Systems Infrastructure Committee

Open for Public Review and Comment September 18, 2013 to November 18, 2013

*Comments were received from 24 persons who reviewed the document. Fifteen (63%) endorsed the draft as it is. Seven who did not endorse the draft cited incorrect or incomplete information as the reason.*

<b>Title of Responder</b>	<b>Do you endorse this draft as is?</b>
Coroner	No
Retired Deputy Coroner	Yes
Chief Deputy Coroner	Yes
Chief Medical Examiner	No
Chief Medical Examiner	Yes
Chief Medical Examiner	No
Chief Medical Examiner	Yes
District State Medical Examiner	No
Deputy Chief Medical Examiner	Yes
Deputy Chief Medical Examiner	No
Deputy Chief Medical Examiner	Yes
Deputy Chief Medical Examiner/Professor	No
Chief Medical Examiner	No
Senior Deputy Medical Examiner	Yes
Associate Medical Examiner	Yes
Associate Medical Examiner	Yes
Assistant Medical Examiner	Yes
Medical Examiner	Yes
Medical Examiner	Yes
Forensic Pathology Chief	Yes
Associate Professor/Health Sciences	Yes
Program manager/Biometrics	Yes
Self-employed forensic pathologist	No Opinion
Pathologist	No Opinion

## General Response to Public Comments

Although 24 people responded to the survey, only six offered specific comments. Their comments and the SWGMDI responses follow. Those who indicated that they were board certified in forensic pathology but were not listed in the document or that the listed information was outdated (n=15) were added to the WorkPlace document and their information is not include below. The suggestions of responders to add specific forensic pathologists to the list were also heeded and are not included below.

### **Commenter #1**

Kittitas County WA is listed as being a primary work location for a BCFP. That is misleading. We had a contract with a BCFP to perform autopsies and the contract at the time of responding represented a large part of that pathologist's practice. That is no longer the case and even at the time it was not accurate to identify our County as having such infrastructure as that pathologist had to travel about 135 miles to get to the funeral home where we conduct such procedures.

#### **Response:**

We will alter the report and remove Kittitas County as having a pathologist there as the primary workplace.

### **Commenter #2**

Again another useful tool in the forensic world!

#### **Response:**

We appreciate the positive feedback.

### **Commenter #3**

Arizona is woefully under-represented. Document states 8 BCFP. Tucson has 6 all by themselves. Phoenix did not participate fully in study and might need to be called directly.

#### **Response:**

We will follow up on this issue and make changes accordingly if information can be obtained.

### **Commenter #4**

We expect to have 3 more Board certified FPs as soon as FP Boards results are released over the next few weeks.

#### **Response:**

We will add a footnote but to make the data consistent in time frame, we need to maintain the cutoff date in the original document. Otherwise, we would need to update data for many places.

### **Commenter #5**

In addition to covering the most populous parish in the Louisiana, namely East Baton Rouge Parish, I also cover Ascension Parish, West Feliciana Parish and Pointe Coupe Parish. I am not certain how or where in the draft that my coverage as a the only full-time board certified forensic pathologist for 4 parishes (counties) in the State of Louisiana would be acknowledged.

#### **Response:**

Our intent was to document primary work location, not all counties served. We understand that

some pathologists travel to do autopsies or that cases are brought to the pathologist from other counties, but our main location was to document the primary workplace location/home base of the pathologists. No change needed.

**Commenter #6**

The document shows that in the state of MO, there are forensic pathologists in St. Louis City and St. Louis County. There are also forensic pathologists for St. Charles, Jefferson, and Franklin Counties of which I am the Chief Medical Examiner

**Response:**

Our intent was to document primary work location, not all counties served. We understand that some pathologists travel to do autopsies or that cases are brought to the pathologist from other counties, but our main location was to document the primary workplace location/home base of the pathologists. No change needed. We have assumed that Jefferson and Franklin are served by the pathologists in St. Charles County.