



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER UFISINAN GE'HILO' MEDIKON EKSAMINA

FISCAL YEAR 2014

A Report to Our Citizens

OCME's Statutory Basis

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME)

The office was formed back in 1971 under the guidance of the 11th Guam Legislature and approved by the people of Guam and then Governor Carlos G. Camacho.

It was established to provide a scientific investigative system for the island of Guam on deaths which occurred suddenly without cause or from unnatural circumstances.

The office is controlled by the *Commission on Post-mortem Examinations* which is made up of the Attorney General of Guam, the Guam Police Department Chief, Public Health & Social services Director, Guam Memorial Hospital Authority Administrator, the Guam Medical Society President, and the current Chief Medical Examiner. (Guam Code Annotated Title 10 Part 2 Division 4 Chapter 81)

In addition, OCME is guided by the Rules and Regulations formulated by the Commission on Post-mortem Examinations, Guam Code Annotated Title 10 §81102 & 81109 which were filed with the Guam Legislative Secretary on May 18, 1981 and for uniformity purpose a new numbering system was adopted and now known as 26 Guam Administrative Rules & Regulation (GAR) Division 3 Chapter 20.

To view the law in its entirety, please visit:

www.guamcourts.org/CompilerofLaws?gca.html



Aurelio A. Espinola, M. D.
Chief Medical Examiner of Guam

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Mission

Our purpose is to determine a true cause and manner of death by conducting medico-legal* death investigations, autopsies, toxicology & specimen analysis on all unnatural & unusual deaths, such as but not limited to homicides, suicides, accidents, sudden unexpected deaths that occurred in a suspicious manner or caused by an unrecognizable disease. In addition, postmortem examinations must also be done on individuals who expire outside of a hospital facility or less than 24 hours after admission to a hospital facility and whose body is to be shipped off island, cremated, or buried at sea. OCME provides support to Guam's public health and safety.

Initiatives & Community Benefits

- ✚ **Efficiently** perform Medico-Legal Death Investigations.
- ✚ **Accurately** establish a factual explanation of the evidence for every death investigation.
- ✚ **Increase** public awareness of the importance of a medico-legal death investigation.
- ✚ **Output** statistical reports and Medico-legal investigation results to the public through the local Medias.
- ✚ **Maintain** a Neutral and Non-biased interpretation of the evidence found during a medico-legal death investigation.

"The Chief Medical Examiner's office will strive to provide a reasonable explanation to the cause and manner of death for a deceased person based on the evidence obtained during a postmortem examination. We maintain that all interpretations of the evidence uncovered by the medico-legal death investigations are neutral by its nature."

Our Performance (*How We Have Progressed*)

FY 2013 - 2014

“MEDICO-LEGAL INVESTIGATIONS”

Output of postmortem examination results & reports are completed in a timely fashion and made available. Annual statistical reports are prepared then submitted to Guam’s Bureau of Statistics & Planning for their annual publication and readily available for other agencies & the public’s view upon proper request. In addition, monthly reports on Suicide cases are compiled and submitted to Dept. of Mental Health & Substance Abuse for their Suicide Prevention Program.

Distribution by "Manner of Death"			
<i>(Autopsy* Cases)</i>			
Manner of Death	2013	2014	% Diff.
NATURAL	28	36	-45%
SUICIDE	7	2	17%
HOMICIDE	10	9	233%
ACCIDENTAL DROWNING	16	17	220%
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT	15	14	36%
AIRCRAFT OR INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT	0	0	0%
OTHER ACCIDENTS	6	1	40%
COULD NOT BE DETERMINED	1	4	-67%
TOTAL AUTOPSIED CASES:	83	83	-7%

**Autopsy: A surgical procedure performed by a licensed physician on a deceased person.*

Distribution by "Manner of Death"			
<i>(Non-Autopsy* Cases)</i>			
Manner of Death	2013	2014	% Diff.
NATURAL	487	482	-1%
SUICIDE	22	27	32%
ACCIDENTAL DROWNING	0	2	0%
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT	3	5	-25%
OTHER ACCIDENTS	1	4	-50%
TOTAL NON-AUTOPSIED CASES:	513	520	16%

In 2014, OCME conducted a total of 603 medico-legal death investigations and has issued 603 certification of death reports, 48 non-autopsy, autopsy, and/or toxicology reports, 72 verification of death letters, and 30 certification of a Non-communicable disease letters upon request at no cost to the recipients.

**Non-Autopsy: A non-surgical external examination performed by a licensed physician on a deceased person.*

Based on the chart to the right, there was a 16% increase comparing 2010 and 2014.



Medico-Legal Death Investigations					
<i>(Calendar Years 2010 - 2014)</i>					
Types of Procedures	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Autopsies	91	85	89	83	83
Non-Autopsies	431	423	499	513	520
Presumptive Death Certificate Issued	0	0	0	0	0
Death Certificate Issued (Military Affiliated)	0	1	0	0	0
Total CME Cases	522	509	588	596	603

APPROPRIATIONS

APPROPRIATIONS		
Categories	FY2013	FY2014
Salaries	\$261,410	260,595
Benefits	96,453	95,370
Travel	4,271	5,645
Operations	38,772	41,990
Supplies & Fuel	2,268	3,000
Equipment	972	0
Miscellaneous	0	0
Telephone	1,920	2,150
Total:	\$406,066	\$414,009

Note: Based on the Appropriation amounts above, a 10% Reserve was placed by the Bureau of Budget Management & Research (BBMR) on agency's budget in an effort to reduce the governments past deficits. Release of reserved funds were only approved with adequate justification & used as a "last resort" when all other options to resolve the issue were unsuccessful.

OCME's OPERATIONS:

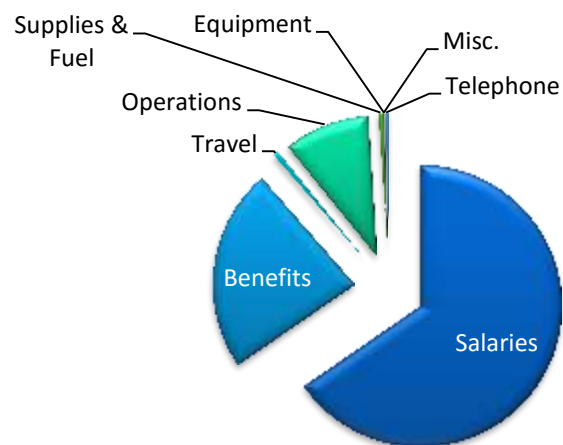
- **Off-Island Travel:** Exclusively for the Medical Examiner for his yearly continuing education seminar as prescribed on his employment contract agreement.
- **Locum Tenens Contract:** Acting Medical Examiner Contract per fiscal year to cover the Medical Examiner when on leave.
- **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):** contract between Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA) & OCME for services such as but not limited to power, water, laboratory, housekeeping, etc.

EXPENDITURE REPORT

EXPENDITURES		
Categories	FY2013	FY2014
Salaries	\$261,410.14	\$263,666.16
Benefits	96,452.75	93,727.35
Travel	4,271.62	2,460.09
Operations	38,771.88	39,404.83
Supplies & Fuel	1,960.16	2,363.38
Equipment	490.00	0
Miscellaneous	0	0
Telephone	1,508.64	1,671.86
Total:	\$404,865.05	\$403,293.67

In FY 2014, OCME spent less than 1% or \$1,571.00 less compared to FY2013. The decrease in expenditures was the result of a decrease of benefits and travel expenses.

Comparison between the Appropriations & Expenditures chart, OCME has continued to spend within its total appropriated budget for both years. There is a less than 1% decrease in expenditures between FY13 and FY14. No federal funds were appropriated to OCME during FY2014. Operations are status quo every year as with our budget appropriations approved by the Guam Legislature & Governor of Guam.



FY 2014 Expense

Future Challenges & Outlooks

FY 2014 – FY 2015

Exciting News....

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner was recently awarded on March 19, 2015 from the U. S. Department of Interior (DOI), Office of Insular Affairs' (OIA) through their Maintenance Assistance Program (MAP) a federal grant of \$71,808.00 to acquire an agency specialized vehicle and for the upgrade of office & autopsy equipment.

Moving Forward....

We will continue to maintain the upmost professional and empathetic services to the people of Guam.

We hope to address the following concerns in the near future:

- ★ Inadequate Personnel.
- ★ Scarce to no available funding for basic office supplies.
- ★ Limited & hazardous workspace.



Hours of Operations

Monday – Friday

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

CLOSED ON:

Lunch Hour

Weekends

Govt. of Guam Holidays

Location

We are located within the Guam Memorial Hospital Compound at the back side pass the Emergency Room area (Morgue Area)

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Do you like this report?

What would you like to see in future reports?

Please let us know by contacting our office by telephone (671) 646-9363/647-2369, email:

cme.guam@gmail.com, or write us at #325 Duenas Drive, Tamuning, Guam 96913.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME