



May 28, 2024

Dear Fellow Medical Examiner or Coroner:

The purpose of this letter is to encourage you to participate in the attached 2023 Census of Medical Examiner and Coroner Offices (CMEC), which the Society of Medicolegal Death Investigators (SOMDI) strongly supports. The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), working with RTI International (RTI), is sending the CMEC to every medical examiner and coroner office in the United States with the goal of generating statistics that will develop a detailed understanding of the U.S. medicolegal death investigation system and gather information that will help address training, staffing, and jurisdictional coverage needs. **SOMDI is hoping that you will participate in this important survey effort.**

The information produced by the CMEC will provide valuable data regarding staffing, budget, and caseload information that will be comparable to the previous CMEC administration, which referenced 2018. The previous CMEC found, for example, that the estimated total annual budget across all MEC offices in the U.S. was \$1.5B, and the average budget per office ranged from \$60,000 to over \$1.8M depending on office size and type. For more information about the previous CMEC's survey results that referenced 2018, please see: <https://bjs.ojp.gov/data-collection/census-medical-examiner-and-coroner-mec-offices>.

Your response to the 2023 CMEC is critical to obtain national estimates of personnel, resources, policies, and infrastructure of our community. Since it is a census, your responses cannot be replaced. The CMEC is the only systematic survey effort of its kind to focus on our community and directly supports SOMDI's mission to promote the highest standards of practice for medicolegal death investigators, as well as improving the interaction of death investigators with other agencies and political entities that interact with death investigation efforts.

We know that you and your staff have many responsibilities and limited time, but we hope that you will provide the requested information and contribute to this effort. Your participation will help ensure that the 2023 CMEC is a success and that the results can be used with confidence by the federal government and by our community.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this important effort.

Sincerely,

Kelly L. Nicholson, F-ABMDI

SOMDI President