

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

IN THE MATTER OF:

RESOLUTION NO. 24-060

APPROVE STORAGE FEE FOR DECEDENTS - NEXT
OF KIN

WHEREAS, the Lewis County Coroner's Office has a limited capacity for storing decedents; and

WHEREAS, the daily average census of decedents is half of the total capacity; and

WHEREAS, a decedent's next of kin can unreasonably delay in selecting a mortuary after being notified by the Coroner's Office to do so.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Lewis County Board of County Commissioners supports the implementation of a fee to be charged to the party responsible for choosing a final mortuary for a decedent. This fee would be \$75.00 per business day and would start being charged on the 8th business after the responsible party has been informed by the Coroner's Office that the decedent is ready to be released.

The Coroner shall not impose this fee:

- a) Upon a person who claims and proves to be indigent. A person shall be determined indigent if the person is entitled to control the disposition of the remains of a decedent pursuant to RCW 68.50.160 and the person's family income is equal to or less than one hundred twenty-five percent or less of the current federally established poverty level in effect on the date the Coroner takes charge of the decedent; or
- b) Upon the party responsible for choosing a final funeral home in cases where the delay in releasing the decedent to a mortuary is not caused by the party responsible (homicide cases on hold by Prosecutor's Office); or
- c) Upon the party responsible for choosing a final funeral home where the decedent is 14 years old or younger.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION this 13th day of February, 2024.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Jonathan Meyer, Prosecuting Attorney

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

David Bailey
By: David Bailey,
Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

Scott J. Brummer
Scott J. Brummer, Chair

ATTEST:



Lindsey R. Pollock, DVM
Lindsey R. Pollock, DVM, Vice Chair

Rieva Lester, CMC
Rieva Lester, CMC,
Clerk of the Lewis County Board of
County Commissioners

Sean D. Swope
Sean D. Swope, Commissioner