

5057

ORDINANCE NO. _____

1
2 AN ORDINANCE relating to the King County
3 Division of the Medical Examiner granting
4 the power to subpoena medical records for
5 the investigation of deaths, adding a new
6 section to King County Code § 2.24 and
7 Ordinance 2878.

8 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

9 NEW SECTION. SECTION 1. Power Granted. The King County
10 Division of the Medical Examiner is hereby granted the power
11 and authority to issue subpoenas to compel the production of
12 medical and dental records, and such other documents as are
13 necessary for the full investigation of any case under the
14 jurisdiction of the Division of the Medical Examiner, from any
15 person, organization or other entity in possession of such
16 records or documents. The power to subpoena medical and dental
17 records shall be vested in the Chief Medical Examiner or his
18 successor, and shall not be limited to cases in which an inquest
19 will be held.

20 NEW SECTION. SECTION 2. Enforcement.

21 A. Subpoenas issued by the Division of the Medical Examiner
22 shall be enforceable through the Superior Court for King County.

23 B. In case of refusal to obey a subpoena, the Chief
24 Medical Examiner may invoke the aid of the King County Prosecut-
25 ing Attorney who shall apply to the court for an order or other
26 appropriate action necessary to secure enforcement of the
27 subpoena.

28 C. Punishment for contempt for failure to comply with a
29 subpoena issued by the Division of the Medical Examiner pursuant
30 to the investigatory functions of said office shall be limited
31 to a fine not exceeding twenty-five dollars or imprisonment in
32 county jail not exceeding two days.
33

1 NEW SECTION. SECTION 3. Severability. Should any section,
 2 subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this
 3 ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason,
 4 that determination shall not affect the validity of the remaining
 5 portions of the ordinance.

6 INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time this 22nd day of
 7 July, 1980.

8 PASSED this 18th day of August, 1980.

9 KING COUNTY COUNCIL
 10 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

11 Bill Reams
 12 Chairman

13 ATTEST:

14
 15 Dorothy M. Amara
 16 ~~Deputy~~ Clerk of the Council

17 APPROVED this 25th day of August, 1980.

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 19 John DeFollioman
 20 King County Executive
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