

CHAPTER 383B

HENNEPIN COUNTY

383B.119 Financial statements and audits.
383B.225 Medical examiner.

383B.63 Public Defender.

383B.119 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITS.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1990]

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1991 c 345 art 1 s 117]

Subd. 3. **Publication and distribution.** The board of commissioners shall publish the annual financial statements in accordance with the requirements of section 375.17. The annual audited financial statements shall be made available for public inspection upon request.

History: 1991 c 345 art 1 s 91

383B.225 MEDICAL EXAMINER.

[For text of subs 1 to 5, see M.S.1990]

Subd. 6. **Investigation procedure.** (a) Upon notification of the death of any person, as provided in subdivision 5, the county medical examiner or a designee may proceed to the body, take charge of it, and order, when necessary, that there be no interference with the body or the scene of death. Any person violating the order of the examiner is guilty of a misdemeanor. The examiner or the examiner's designee shall make inquiry regarding the cause and manner of death and prepare written findings together with the report of death and its circumstances, which shall be filed in the office of the examiner. When it appears that death may have resulted from a criminal act and that further investigation is advisable, a copy of the report shall be transmitted to the county attorney. The examiner may take possession of all property of the deceased, mark it for identification, and make an inventory. The examiner shall take possession of all articles useful in establishing the cause of death, mark them for identification and retain them securely until they are no longer needed for evidence or investigation. The examiner shall release any property or articles needed for any criminal investigation to law enforcement officers conducting the investigation. When a reasonable basis exists for not releasing property or articles to law enforcement officers, the examiner shall consult with the county attorney. If the county attorney determines that a reasonable basis exists for not releasing the property or articles, the examiner may retain them. The property or articles shall be returned immediately upon completion of the investigation. When the property or articles are no longer needed for the investigation or as evidence, the examiner shall release the property or articles to the person or persons entitled to them. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, when personal property of a decedent has come into the possession of the examiner, and is not used for a criminal investigation or as evidence, and has not been otherwise released as provided in this subdivision, the name of the decedent shall be filed with the probate court, together with a copy of the inventory of the decedent's property. At that time, an examination of the records of the probate court shall be made to determine whether a will has been admitted to probate or an administration has been commenced. Property of a nominal value, including wearing apparel, may be released to the spouse or any blood relative of the decedent or to the person accepting financial responsibility for burial of the decedent. If property has not been released by the examiner and no will has been admitted to probate or administration commenced within six months after death, the examiner shall sell the property at a public auction upon notice and in a manner as the probate court may direct. If the name of the decedent is not known, the examiner shall inventory the property of the decedent and after six months may sell the property at

a public auction. The examiner shall be allowed reasonable expenses for the care and sale of the property and shall deposit the net proceeds of the sale with the county administrator, or the administrator's designee, in the name of the decedent, if known. If the decedent is not known, the examiner shall establish a means of identifying the property of the decedent with the unknown decedent and shall deposit the net proceeds of the sale with the county administrator, or a designee, so, that, if the unknown decedent's identity is established within six years, the proceeds can be properly distributed. In either case, duplicate receipts shall be provided to the examiner, one of which shall be filed with the court, the other of which shall be retained in the office of the examiner. If a representative shall qualify within six years from the time of deposit, the county administrator, or a designee, shall pay the amount of the deposit to the representative upon order of the court. If no order is made within six years, the proceeds of the sale shall become a part of the general revenue of the county.

(b) For the purposes of this section, health-related records or data on a decedent, except health data defined in section 13.38, whose death is being investigated under this section, whether the records or data are recorded or unrecorded, including but not limited to those concerning medical, surgical, psychiatric, psychological, or any other consultation, diagnosis, or treatment, including medical imaging, shall be made promptly available to the medical examiner, upon the medical examiner's written request, by a person having custody of, possession of, access to, or knowledge of the records or data. The medical examiner shall pay the reasonable costs of copies of records or data provided to the medical examiner under this section. Data collected or created pursuant to this subdivision relating to any psychiatric, psychological, or mental health consultation with, diagnosis of, or treatment of the decedent whose death is being investigated shall remain confidential or protected nonpublic data, except that the medical examiner's report may contain a summary of such data.

[For text of subs 7 to 13, see M.S.1990]

History: 1991 c 319 s 18

383B.63 PUBLIC DEFENDER.

Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1991 c 345 art 3 s 30]

[For text of subs 2 to 6, see M.S.1990]