

Office of the Medical Examiner- Coroner (ME-C) Digital Cameras

Annual Surveillance Report for July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

1. Description of How the Technology Was Used

The Medical Examiner – Coroner used the following digital cameras: seventeen (17) Fuji Film X-T1 IR, five (5) Panasonic Lumix DMC-ZS100 and two (2) Sony Cyber- shot DSC- HX400, by investigators, doctors, and forensic autopsy technicians to photograph individual decedents, external and internal injuries, autopsy findings, neuropathology specimens and death scenes, to assist in documenting evidence and injuries, confirming identification and determining the cause and manner of death.

The digital cameras do not capture information regarding the public, only individuals who are part of the investigation process and or have provided consent to have images taken for ME-C re-enactment scenes pertaining to child deaths and other necessary cases.

The Medical Examiner – Coroner keeps an inventory of all digital cameras and who they are assigned to. All images from the cameras are transferred to the case management system used by the ME-C and erased from the cameras upon completion of transfer. Homicide images are housed on a separate secure server and access is limited to specific roles designated by the Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner.

2. Data Sharing with Outside Entities

Any data shared from the digital cameras was approved by the Chief Medical Examiner – Coroner or authorized designee. Images were shared with law enforcement agencies and legal entities to assist in criminal investigations or court proceedings when requested by subpoenas and discovery requests. Subpoenas for case files including photos were received from private legal entities, and discovery requests were received from the County of Santa Clara Office of the District Attorney.

Below is a list of all subpoenas, discovery requests, and law enforcement requests that were received and compiled during this reporting period, in which photographs were requested, the request approved, and photographs released. Once the request was received through discovery or subpoena, the digital photographs associated with the case file being requested were digitally copied and then shared with the requester on a CD disc provided by the Medical Examiner-Coroner.

Discovery Requests Received:

Campbell PD	1
Gilroy PD	1
Hollister PD	1
Los Gatos PD	1
MacroPro	1
Magna Record Trak	1
Milpitas PD	1
San Benito District Attorney	1
San Jose Police Department (SJPD)	17
SCC County Counsel	1
SCC Public Defender	1
SCC District Attorney Office	37
Total	64

Subpoena Requests Received

SCC District Attorney Office	29
Total	29

3. Community Complaints or Concerns about the Technology

There were no reported community complaints or concerns regarding the existing use of the digital cameras.

4. Audits / Policy Violations

There were no audits or policy violations regarding the usage of the digital cameras.

5. Effectiveness at Achieving Identified Purpose

The digital cameras continued to be effective and meet the needs of the department. The Fuji Film X -T1 IR digital camera is only offered to law enforcement/military entities and medical/scientific professionals that intend to use the product for scientific purposes.

6. Public Records Act Requests

There were no California Public Records Act requests regarding the digital cameras.

7. Annual Costs

No new cameras have been purchased during this reporting period.