

# News Release



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## **Charleston County Coroner's Office Receives Federal Grant**

The Charleston County Coroner's Office has been awarded \$47,835.00 in grant funds from the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant which is administered by the South Carolina Department of Public Safety Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs. This is the second year the Coroner's Office has been awarded funds to continue to employ a Forensic Autopsy Technician who assists with the examination and documentation of forensic findings during forensic autopsies completed at the Charleston County Coroner's Office.

In 2022, the Charleston County Coroner's Office completed 606 forensic autopsies. Of those 439 were conducted at the Coroner's Office while the remaining 167 were completed at a local hospital. Those numbers are anticipated to rise in 2023. An updated count is available on the Coroner's website.

"Charleston County has been hit hard by the opioid epidemic and our overdose numbers continue to rise as well as the number of homicides, suicides and pedestrian/motor vehicle accidents. We are honored to have been awarded funds for a second year that will provide for a Forensic Autopsy Technician who will assist as we care for those who have died and lost their voice while providing needed information to surviving families," said Coroner Bobbi Jo O'Neal.

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### **For information on Charleston County Coroner Office news and services, the public can:**

- Visit our website: <https://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/coroner/index.php>
- Visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/charlestoncoroner>

*-written by the Charleston County Coroner's Office-*

