



Statement of Anahi Ortiz, M.D., Franklin County Coroner

We have found that the Franklin County Coroner's office apparently is not immune from the Great Resignation. Recently, four of our deputy coroners/pathologists announced their intent to resign from their positions, with work/life balance issues at the heart of their decisions. Two have already left the office and the other two will remain on staff until April.

As we begin the process to replace these staff members, the work of the coroner's office will continue to be promptly and professionally handled. Local forensic pathologists have stepped up and are filling in on a temporary basis. We also intend to activate the intergovernmental agreements we have with Hamilton and Montgomery Counties, both of which will receive cases as needed. In addition, we have hired a recruiter to help in our search for permanent replacements.

The pandemic has shone a light on what matters most to people – health, family and friends. Individuals in all types of professions are seeking to lower their stress levels with lighter workloads, easier commutes and work-from-home options, all to create a better quality of life. I cannot fault my employees (two of whom commuted over four hours each day), who hope to work in smaller offices with fewer cases, from home and/or closer to home. I wish them the best.