

TO: All OCME Employees
FROM: Dr. Collie Trant, CME
RE: Safety and Confidentiality

DATE: October 1, 2009

It has come to my attention that two former employees, Kevin Rowland and Rob Deaton, may have attempted to contact persons employed in this office. In light of the circumstances surrounding Mr. Rowland and Mr. Deaton's separation from the agency, employees have expressed concerns about safety. The OCME shares those concerns, and requests that you notify myself or Cherokee immediately if you feel unsafe, or if Mr. Rowland or Mr. Deaton make any further attempts to contact you.

As Mr. Rowland is currently under indictment for criminal charges regarding acts he allegedly committed while employed at the OCME, and some of you may be called as witnesses in those proceedings, it is inappropriate for Mr. Rowland to have contact with persons employed by the OCME. The Multi-County Grand Jury unit of the Office of Attorney General has been notified, and considers any such contacts as possible attempts to tamper with or intimidate witnesses. The OAG contacted Mr. Rowland's attorney, and he assured the OAG that no further contacts will be made.

Employees are also reminded not to share confidential or privileged information you may have regarding death investigations, internal personnel matters, or other business of the agency with any persons outside the office. You are advised to review the attached policies from the Employee Handbook regarding Confidential Information and Electronic Mail and Computer Services, and Sections 24A.5(1)(d) and 24A.7 of Title 51 of the Oklahoma Statutes (Oklahoma Open Records Act). If you are unclear about what information is confidential or privileged, please contact your immediate supervisor. Supervisors should contact Cherokee Ballard. Violation of these policies may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Please acknowledge that you received and read this memo by signing and returning a copy with your signature to Cherokee Ballard by October 9, 2009. Thanks for your patience, cooperation, and hard work as we all work together to move the OCME forward through this difficult period of transition.