

Press Headlines related to Shelby County Medical Examiner Dr. Joye M. Carter

January 1998 - Medical Examiner fired for refusing to falsify evidence says she suspected a frame up in case. Prosecutors upset analysis didn't back their theory. Harris County pays her \$375,000 to settle whistle blower suit [against Dr. Joye Carter]

Johnson sued the county in March 1997, contending that Dr. Joye Carter fired her for reporting potentially illegal cover-ups and sabotage at the office.

April 1998 (AP) - New information, including allegations of evidence tampering surfaced to put a prosecution's case in jeopardy.

A fired Harris County pathologist ... was told [by Dr. Joye Carter] to change [an] autopsy report to indicate that African-American hairs found on the body ... didn't not come from the crime scene [because] the primary suspect [that prosecutors] wanted to convict was White and the presence of African-American hairs would ruin their case.

Saturday Dec 19 1998 (AP) - Initially Dr. Joye Carter denied that employees stacked bodies on top of one another when they ran out of metal trays. [However, in a recent] Houston Chronicle story, she acknowledged the practice had occurred...

In one instance, [a] photographer said, a body was removed from a stack [of bodies] in order to reveal the presence of an infant's body between two adult bodies.

Dr. Carter's office has come under frequent criticism in the past year for a series of controversies such as criminal investigations, lawsuits by two employees who contend they were tired for reporting illegal practices, the accidental cremation of a wrong body, the employment of an unlicensed physician, and questions about the reliability of autopsies in several high profile cases.

March 14, 1999 - And guess who was D.C. Medical Examiner at the time ..., blocking media attempts to view autopsy reports? Joye Carter appears to be the Coroner Of Choice when it comes to cover-ups, which may be why she still has her job and her license.

Sunday, April 9, 2000 The Abilene Reporter-News – In November 1998, [Harris County] agreed to pay Dr. Elizabeth "Libby" Johnson a \$375,000 settlement.

Johnson sued the county in March 1997, contending that Dr. Joye Carter fired her for reporting potentially illegal cover-ups and sabotage at the office.

Sunday, April 9, 2000 The Abilene Reporter-News - A federal jury has awarded \$250,000 to a former Harris County pathologist who claims she was fired in 1998 for exposing alleged illegal activity in [Dr. Carter's] medical examiner's office.

Dr. Doyle testified that she went to Dr. Carter ... with concerns that [another doctor] was performing autopsies without a ... medical license.

It is the second time a jury has sided with a fired worker from [Dr. Carter's] office who crossed [the medical examiner] to report problems in that county office.

Sunday February 4, 2001 - (AP) Harris County chief medical examiner [Dr. Joye Carter] was fined \$1000 ... as a part of a settlement reached with the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners for allowing an unlicensed pathologist to perform autopsies.

Dr. Joye Carter had faced stiffer punishment, including the revocation of her medical license and the loss of her job as a result of the investigation.

The settlement ends a three-year controversy that erupted when it was revealed that Carter hired and allowed someone to perform autopsies, including in some homicide cases, without a Texas medical license.

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Dr. Joye Carter was accused of falsifying an autopsy report when she was the chief medical examiner in Washington, D.C. In Harris County, an employee charged that Dr. Carter fired her because she reported the suppression of evidence favorable to a murder defendant and two cases of destruction of evidence. The employee sued. The county paid \$325,000 plus her legal costs to settle.