

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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October 1, 1948

To James L. Reid, Esq., County Attorney, Kennebec

Your letter of September 28th received, inquiring in regard to who pays for blood tests.

In my opinion, blood tests should be paid for from the office of the department requesting same, or if the accused requests same, he should pay for it.

If the County Attorney or the Sheriff's Department requests it, the County should pay for it. If city police ask for it, the city should pay for it.

You also ask in regard to the charge of \$5 made by the State Lab for analysis of the blood sample. When I have any work done for this department, I am billed and pay for it from the Attorney General's appropriation.

I agree with you that you should not approve payment of bills from the State Lab in cases where State Police requested the test. It should be charged to the State Police appropriation. This matter came up with Hillard Buzzell, over in Waldo County, in a case where he did not order the test. I ruled that where a State trooper ordered the test and the County authorities knew nothing about the case at the time the test was made, the State Police should pay for same.

Ralph W. Farris
Attorney General

RWF:c