

*We offer you and your family our sincere condolences for the loss of your loved one.*

*We hope this information can assist in answering your questions about the involvement of our office. Please contact us with any questions or concerns.*



**Washington County Medical Examiner's Office at (503) 846-3575**

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## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Why is the Medical Examiner's Office involved in this death?**

Pursuant to Oregon Revised Statute 146.090, the Medical Examiner shall investigate and certify the cause and manner of all human deaths:

- (a) Apparently homicidal, suicidal, or occurring under suspicious or unknown circumstances;
- (b) Resulting from the unlawful use of controlled substances or the use or abuse of chemicals or toxic agents;
- (c) Occurring while incarcerated in any jail, correction facility or in police custody;
- (d) Apparently accidental or following an injury;
- (e) By disease, injury or toxic agent during or arising from employment;
- (f) While not under the care of a physician during the period immediately previous to death;
- (g) Related to disease which might constitute a threat to public health;
- (h) In which a human body has been disposed of in an offensive manner.

### **Where will the deceased be taken?**

In some cases, the deceased may be released to a funeral service after the initial scene investigation. When family members are not immediately available to designate a funeral service, one will be selected within the geographical area. This selection is based on an established on-call rotation list.

In other cases, when further examination is necessary, the deceased will be taken to the State Medical Examiner's Office in Clackamas, Oregon.

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### **Will an examination or autopsy be performed?**

Yes, if it is necessary to establish the cause and manner of death for the purpose of issuing an accurate death certificate and in cases involving criminal or suspected criminal wrongdoing.

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### **Do I have to consent to an examination or autopsy?**

Your desires will always be considered, however; the State Medical Examiner makes the final decision regarding which examination procedures are necessary.

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### **Do I have to pay for the examination or autopsy?**

No. Examination and autopsy costs are paid for with public funds.

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### **Will an examination or autopsy prevent a funeral service or viewing?**

No. These procedures do not prevent the deceased from being viewed or preclude a funeral service.

### **How long will the deceased remain in the State Medical Examiner's facility?**

Generally, the examination or autopsy is performed the day after the death. Most often, the deceased can be released to a funeral service of the family's choice on that day. However, some situations do take longer.

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### **If an examination or autopsy was performed, will I be made aware of the results?**

Yes. If you contact the Washington County Medical Examiner's Office at (503) 846-3575 after the exam, preliminary results should be available.



### **Will I be able to get copies of the Medical Examiner's reports?**

Copies of the examination and toxicology reports are available to qualifying parties at no cost. All requests must be made through the State Medical Examiner's Office at (971) 673-8200. Request forms can be downloaded from the state website at: [www.oregon.gov/OSP/SME/docs/GuidelinesReqMER.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SME/docs/GuidelinesReqMER.pdf)

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### **Is it necessary for a relative or friend to come to the Medical Examiner's Office to identify the deceased?**

No. We will use photo identification when possible. We may also use fingerprints, dental records, or other methods.

### **What should I do after I have been notified of the death?**

Select a funeral service and advise them the death is being investigated by the Medical Examiner. Funeral directors are familiar with the operation of the Medical Examiner's Office and can assist you in making all arrangements for final disposition of the deceased, including obtaining the death certificate. The Medical Examiner cannot recommend a funeral service.

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### **Where will personal property be taken?**

The personal property of the deceased will normally be secured by the handling law enforcement agency or the designated funeral service.

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### **When will I be able to obtain a Death Certificate?**

After the cause of death has been determined, the State Medical Examiner will sign the death certificate and forward it to the funeral service handling the arrangements. The funeral service will send the death certificate to the State Vital Records Office to be registered. When registered, certified copies may be ordered through the funeral service or the Washington County Vital Records Office. To request an order form, please call (503) 846-3538 or download it from the county website at: [www.co.washington.or.us/deptmts/hhs/vitl\\_med/medexam.htm](http://www.co.washington.or.us/deptmts/hhs/vitl_med/medexam.htm)

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### **Can the deceased be an anatomical donor?**

In most cases, yes. The Medical Examiner will authorize anatomical gifts whenever possible although certain cases preclude donations. For information regarding all anatomical donations, please call the Lions Eye Bank of Oregon at 1 (800) 843-7793.

## Information the Funeral Service will Need for the Deceased

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- ◆ Legal Name
- ◆ Date of Birth
- ◆ Place of Birth
- ◆ Maiden Name (if applicable)
- ◆ Mother's Name
- ◆ Mother's Maiden Name
- ◆ Father's Name
- ◆ Social Security Number
- ◆ Veteran's Information (if applicable)
- ◆ Marital Status
- ◆ Ethnicity
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Occupation



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The next-of-kin or authorized representative may choose any licensed funeral service for the final disposition of the deceased. Below is a list of licensed funeral service facilities that are on the Washington County on-call rotation list. The fees for removal and transportation vary by facility.

### Beaverton

**Finley-Sunset Hills Mortuary**  
(503) 292-6654

**Pegg, Paxson & Springer Funeral Chapel**  
(503) 644-1176

**Springer & Son Aloha Funeral Home**  
(503) 356-1000

### Forest Grove/Banks

**Duyck & Vandehey Funeral Home**  
(503) 357-8749

**Fuiten, Rose & Hoyt Funeral Home**  
(503) 357-2161

### Hillsboro

**Fir Lawn Mortuary**  
(503) 640-2277

**Tualatin Valley Funeral Alternatives**  
(503) 693-7965

### Sherwood

**Alternative Burial and Cremation of Oregon**  
(503) 925-8685

**Attrell's Sherwood Funeral Chapel**  
(503) 625-6515

### Tigard

**National Cremation Service**  
(503) 286-0965

**Wherity Family Funerals & Cremations**  
(503) 885-8242

**Young's Funeral Home & Crematory**  
(503) 639-1206

## Responding Deputy Medical Examiner

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### Responding Police Agency

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Officer: \_\_\_\_\_

Case #: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Other Support Agencies

**Association for Death Education & Counseling (ADEC) – 1 (847) 509-0403**  
[www.adecc.org/resources/index.cfm](http://www.adecc.org/resources/index.cfm)

**Compassionate Friends**  
1 (877) 969-0010  
[www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org)

**Critical Care BioRecovery, LLC**  
(biohazard cleaning service)  
1 (866) 225-6744  
[www.criticalcarebiorecovery.com](http://www.criticalcarebiorecovery.com)

**Dougy Center for Grieving Children**  
(503) 775-5683 [www.dougy.org](http://www.dougy.org)

**Dow Columbia – 1 (800) 524-5570**  
(biohazard cleaning service)  
[www.dowcolumbia.com](http://www.dowcolumbia.com)

**Hospice & Palliative Care of Washington County** (grief counseling & education)  
(503) 648-9565 [www.hospicewc.org](http://www.hospicewc.org)

**The National Hospice & Palliative Care Organization – 1 (800) 658-8898**  
[www.nhpco.org](http://www.nhpco.org)

**Victims Assistance, Washington County DA's Office** (for victims of crime)  
(503) 846-8671

**Washington County Mental Health Crisis Line – (503) 291-9111**

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## Information Regarding a Medical Examiner Involved Death

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Provided By:

### WASHINGTON COUNTY *Medical Examiner's Office*

155 N. First Avenue, Suite 160, MS-5  
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124-3072

### 24-Hour Telephone Number

(503) 846-3575 .....(Office)

(503) 846-3655 .....(FAX)

[www.co.washington.or.us/deptmths/hhs/vitl\\_med/medexam.htm](http://www.co.washington.or.us/deptmths/hhs/vitl_med/medexam.htm)

