

We offer you and your family our sincere condolences for the death 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.

Why is the Medical Examiner's Office involved?

The Medical Examiner's duties are directed by Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 146.090. The statute lists the following types of cases that must be reported to the Medical Examiner's Office in each county, which include but are not limited to:

- Apparent homicide, suicidal or deaths occurring under suspicious or unknown circumstances;
- Deaths resulting from the unlawful use of drugs, chemicals or toxic agents;
- Deaths that occur while a person is incarcerated in any jail, correction facility or in police custody;
- Accidental deaths or a death following an injury;
- Deaths that occur from disease, injury or toxic agent during or arising from employment;
- Deaths that occur while not under the care of a physician during the period immediately previous to death;
- Deaths that are related to disease that might constitute a threat to the public health; or
- Deaths where a person's body may have been disposed of in an offensive manner.
- ORS 146.100: All deaths of persons admitted to a hospital or institution for less than 24 hours.

Functions of Medical Examiners and Medicolegal Death Investigators.

Medicolegal Death Investigator will receive reports of death, review decedents' medical records and police reports related to the death, determine jurisdiction, make a scene response when needed, photograph the scene and the decedent, conduct thorough body examinations, collect specimens for toxicology testing, when necessary, interview next of kin, and complete a detailed report. Medical Examiners manage investigations of deaths, determine the cause and manner of death after reviewing the Medicolegal Death Investigator's report, scene photos, decedent's medical records, and then will produce a death certificate.

Where will my loved one be taken?

In some cases, your loved one 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. In other cases, when further examination is necessary, your loved one will be transported to the State Medical Examiner's Office in Clackamas, Oregon.

Will an examination or autopsy be performed?

If necessary, an autopsy will be performed at the Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office to establish the cause and manner of death when deemed necessary by a Forensic Pathologist.

Do I have to consent to an examination or autopsy?

The family's desires are always carefully considered; however, the Oregon State Medical Examiner makes the final decision regarding which examination procedures are necessary.

Do I have to pay for the examination or autopsy?

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

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

No. These procedures do not prevent your loved one from being viewed or having a funeral service.

How long will my loved one remain in the State Medical Examiner's facility?

Most examinations or autopsies are performed the day after a person has died to allow the body to be released to the funeral service quickly. Unfortunately, some examinations do take longer. Families need to choose a funeral home within a week of an autopsy. We appreciate your patience in these rare circumstances.

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

Yes. The Medicolegal Death Investigator assigned to your loved one's case will contact you with the results.

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

Copies of examination and toxicology reports are available in some circumstances. All requests must be made to the Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office. Request forms can be downloaded from the State's website at www.oregon.gov/osp/sme

Is it necessary for a relative or friend to go to the State Medical Examiner's Office to identify my loved one?

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

What should I do now that I have been notified of the death?

You may want to call a friend or family member for support as you begin the process of contacting and selecting a funeral service. Once you have chosen a service, advise them that the death is being investigated by the Lincoln County Medical Examiner's Office. Funeral directors are familiar with the Medical Examiner's Office and can assist you in making all arrangements including, how to obtain a death certificate.

Where will personal property be taken?

Personal property will normally be secured by law enforcement or the Medicolegal Death Investigator.

When will I be able to obtain a death certificate?

After the cause of death has been determined, the State or County Medical Examiner will sign the death certificate and forward it to the funeral service that is handling the arrangements. The funeral service will send the death certificate to the State Vital Records Office to be registered. Once registered, a certified copy may be ordered through the funeral service or the Lincoln County Vital Records Office.

Can my loved one be an anatomical donor?

In most cases, yes. The Medical Examiner will authorize anatomical gifts whenever possible.

Medicolegal Death Investigator:

Law Enforcement:

Agency: _____

Officer/Deputy: _____

Case #: _____

Other Helpful Contacts

Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office

971-673-8200

www.oregon.gov/osp/sme

Association for Death Education & Counseling

847-509-0403

www.adec.org

Care Partners Hospice & Palliative Care

(Grief counseling & education)

503-648-9565 or 888-968-9565

<http://carepartnersor.org>

Compassionate Friends

877-969-0010

www.compassionatefriends.org

Dougy Center for Grieving Children

503-775-5683 or 866-775-5683

www.dougy.org

The National Hospice & Palliative Care Organization

800-658-8898

www.nhpco.org/

Victims' Advocates (For victims of crime)

541-265-0265

Lincoln County Behavioral Health

Crisis Line: 866-266-0288

Lincoln County Vital Statistics

541-265-4127

Pacific BioResponse Services

541-612-8261

Information the Funeral Service

Will Need

- Legal name
- Date of birth
- Place of birth
- Maiden name (if applicable)
- Mother's full and maiden name
- Father's full name
- Social security number
- Veteran information (if applicable)
- Marital status
- Ethnicity
- Level of education completed
- Occupation

Choosing a Funeral Service Facility

The legal next-of-kin or representative has the right to select any licensed funeral service to arrange mortuary and disposition services. Below is a list of licensed funeral service facilities located in Lincoln County and its neighboring counties. Please note that the Medical Examiner's Office is unable to recommend a specific funeral home. Additionally, the costs for services may vary between facilities.

Lincoln County

Bateman Funeral Home

541-265-2751

Pacific View Memorial Gardens & Crematory

541-994-4662

Affordable Burial & Cremation

541-265-7111

Tillamook County

Waud's Funeral Home

503-842-7557

Benton County

McHenry Funeral Home & Cremation Services

541-757-8141

De Moss-Durdan Funeral Home & Crematory

541-754-6255

After Cremation: 844-789-5794

Lane County

Musgrove Family Mortuary

541-205-9366

Sunset Hills Funeral Home, Crematorium and Cemetery: 541-342-6853

Andreason's Cremation & Burial Service

541-485-6659

Major Family Funeral Home

541-746-9667

Rest-Haven Memorial Park & Funeral Home

541-345-8521

Lane Memorial Funeral Home

541-215-6944

Alpha Cremation Service Company

541-215-6774

Springfield Memorial Funeral Home

541-215-6968

Murphy-Musgrove Funeral Home

541-215-6926

Polk County

Restlawn Memory Gardens & Funeral Home

503-585-1373

Farnstrom Mortuary

503-838-1414

Bollman's Tribute Center

503-623-2325

The death of a loved one brings many emotions, questions, and concerns. We care and are here to support you.



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