



Prosecuting Attorney - Coroner 00100.843.

Mission Statement

To accurately determine the manner and cause of death for all cases that fall under the jurisdiction of the coroner by conducting professional medicolegal death investigations.

Function

The Coroner is responsible for investigating and certifying the manner and cause of death for certain types of death occurring within the county. The Coroner relies on assistance from law enforcement, doctors, medical staff, hospice workers, forensic pathologists, forensic anthropologists, forensic odontologists, regional medical examiners, investigators, family members and next of kin to accomplish this work.

Trends/Events

Trends

- As the county's population increases, there have been more calls for service on an annual basis.
- Overdose deaths have decreased since 2016.
- Suicides deaths have decreased since 2018.
- Accidental deaths have increased since 2017.
- Increasingly complex death scenes are requiring more time spent out of the office and on scene assisting with death investigations.
- Proposed legislation at the state level will likely require county coroners to be credentialed at a level never before required (Death Investigator Certification and Office Accreditation requirements).
- With increased frequency, we are seeing a need for additional expertise and sending human remains to the King County Medical Examiner's Office for examination.

Events (first six months of 2020)

- Coordinated five autopsies with the King County Medical Examiner's Office.
- Coordinated one autopsy with Seattle Children's Hospital.
- Coordinated three cases of human remains with the Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation.
- Participated in two County Emergency Management meetings.
- Participated in 15 Washington State Coroner/Medical Examiner COVID meetings.
- Coordinated with the Port Angeles Police Department, the King County Medical Examiner's Office, and a forensic sketch artist to determine identity on a previously unidentified deceased male.

- Implemented COVID testing on deceased individuals with possible COVID-19 symptoms prior to death.
- Published monthly updates reflecting the rates of accidental, overdose, and suicide deaths in our county to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office website.
- Participated in an informational seminar and tour of tissue procurement agency LifeNet Health.

Goals

- Improve the professional development of all staff through training.
- Collaborate with community stake holders to identify and respond to issues and concerns related to death investigations.
- Transition to the use of a new software application known as MDI Log in place of department-created spreadsheets to manage coroner data.
- Update processes for monitoring and reporting statistics using MDI Log.
- Complete Death Investigator Certification for at least two staff as part of the continued effort to provide coroner services at a higher level to our community.
- Participate in all county-led Emergency Management Meetings that implicate the work of the Coroner's Office.
- Purchase supplies and assemble emergency kits for distribution across the county.
- Update policies and procedures as necessary to pursue accreditation.

Challenges

- Lack of staff dedicated solely to the Coroner's Office increases the magnitude and severity of the present departmental resource challenge.

Workload Indicators

	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	6/30/20 Actual
Total Coroner Cases	208	240	130
Autopsies	64	61	28
No Autopsies	144	179	102

Grant Funding Sources

This fund does not receive any grant revenue. State reimburses 40% of pathologist costs for autopsies. The state reimburses 100% of costs relative to the death of a child under 3 years of age.

Revenues

	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	6/30/20 Actual	2021 Budget
Taxes	0	0	0	0
Licenses and Permits	0	0	0	0
Intergovernmental Revenues	46,200	33,600	19,600	40,000

Charges for Goods and Services	0	0	0	0
Fines and Forfeits	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous Revenues	0	2,035	0	1
Other Financing Sources	0	0	0	0
Transfers In	0	0	0	0
General Tax Support	81,753	113,111	60,636	121,799
Total	127,953	148,746	80,236	161,800

Expenditures

	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	6/30/20 Actual	2021 Budget
Salaries and Wages	0	0	0	0
Personnel Benefits	0	0	0	0
Supplies	0	0	0	10,000
Other Services and Charges	127,953	148,746	80,236	151,800
Intergovernmental Services	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlays	0	0	0	0
Interfund Payments for Services	0	0	0	0
Transfers Out	0	0	0	0
Total	127,953	148,746	80,236	161,800

Staffing

	2018 Budget	2019 Budget	2020 Budget	2021 Budget
Full Time Equivalent	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00