

A Message from the Coroner of Marion County, Indiana



Information to assist you during this difficult time

Marion County Coroner's Office
521 W. McCarty Street
Indianapolis, IN 46225
(317) 327-4744

<http://www.IndyGov.org/Coroner>

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The Marion County Coroner's office extends our deepest sympathy to you at this time. To assist you during this difficult time, we have prepared this pamphlet to provide you with information that will help to answer your questions.

I assure you, your loved one will be treated with the utmost respect and dignity. Our office is committed to serving the local community as an advocate for the deceased and their families in times of need and sorrow.

We encourage you to read the information that has been provided on tissue, organ, and eye donation. The Marion County Coroner supports the efforts of the Indiana Donation Alliance and its members.

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Give the Gift of Life

The death of a loved one is one of the most difficult things you will ever face. However, during this time, you can make a decision that offers your family member the opportunity to give a final gift to someone else in need. This decision may also offer you and your family some comfort in knowing that another person's life was saved by this special gift.

You and your family might be contacted by a member of the Indiana Donation Alliance and asked to consider donation as a possible last act for your loved one. Depending on your situation, you may be offered the option to consent to the donation of various organs, tissues, eyes or corneas. All deaths are reported to the Indiana Donation Alliance.

Personal Property and Vehicles

Property: Some personal effects may have been removed from your loved one during the course of the examination. You may call the office to determine if personal effects were removed and are in the possession of the office. If property is secured at the office, please schedule an appointment.

Vehicles: Vehicles that are towed from a scene, are transported to Zore's Towing. If a vehicle was towed, there are fees that accrue daily for storage. If you know that a vehicle was towed during the course of the investigation, call the Coroner's Office to obtain a release for the vehicle. Immediately call Zore's to minimize fees.

Zore's, Inc.
1313 N Mickley Avenue
317-247-8484

FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Where is my loved one being transported?

A: Your loved one will be transported to the Marion County Coroner's Office, Forensics Department. This laboratory facility is where we will perform a medical examination, if necessary.

Q: Why is the Coroner involved in the death of my loved one?

A: The Coroner determines if a death needs to be investigated or if the death certificate can be routinely signed by the attending physician. – The following is a list of death circumstances in which the Coroner frequently gets involved:

1. Sudden death of a healthy child
2. Death occurring within 24 hours of admission at a hospital or health care facility
3. Physician unable to state cause of death, after careful review of medical chart, or decedent does not have a physician
4. Known or suspected homicide or suicide
5. Related to or following known suspected self-induced or criminal abortion
6. Following an accident or injury primary or contributory, either old or recent
7. Drowning, fire, exposure, acute alcoholism, drug addiction, strangulation, aspiration or malnutrition
8. Accidental poisoning (food, chemical, drug, therapeutic agents)
9. Occupational disease or occupational hazards
10. Known or suspect contagious disease constituting a public hazard, excluding A.I.D.S.
11. All deaths where patient is under anesthetic
12. All deaths of unidentified persons
13. Death of an active duty military personnel

Q: Is an autopsy always performed?

A: Not always. If the death is a "Natural Death" and cause of death can be determined by past medical history or from an external exam, an autopsy will not normally be performed.

Q: Why are autopsies performed?

A: There are a number of reasons autopsies are performed. However, the basic reason is to determine the medical cause of death. The primary reason is to gather evidence for presentation in a court of law.

Q: Is there a charge for these services?

A: No, not if performed by our office.

Q: Can I come see my loved one at your office?

A: Due to legal and health issues, visitation of the loved one is done only at the funeral home after the body is properly prepared. However, if photo identification is necessary this is permitted for immediate next-of-kin only.

Q: How do I prepare funeral arrangements?

A: Contact the funeral director of your choice as soon as possible and advise what has transpired. Your funeral director will then coordinate further arrangements directly with us and help you begin the preparations for your loved one's funeral.

Q: Can I contact the Coroner's office?

A: Certainly; you may call **(317) 327-4744** between 8:00 am & 4:00 pm Monday thru Friday or leave a message on our recorder at any time.

Q: Can I have a private autopsy performed if one is not performed by the coroner?

A: Yes, call the office to determine if an autopsy was performed. If not, you may have a private autopsy performed by an outside company.

Marion County Coroner Staff

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