

Legal Requirements

State and County laws make it the duty of the Coroner to inquire into and determine the manner and cause of deaths that occur under the following circumstances:

Violence: To include homicides and suicides.

Accidental: To include vehicular, industrial, drowning, fire, falls etc.

Suspicious: Any death occurring under circumstances which do not appear to be natural.

Unattended: Any death occurring without a physician present at the time of the death outside of a medical facility.

In Custody: Any death occurring while incarcerated, including during arrest or while in any County, City or State correctional facility.

Overdoses: Any death suspected to be related to the use of illegal or prescribed drugs.

Abortion: Any death resulting from criminal or self-induced abortion.

Other cases that are reviewed by policy to determine if they are to be accepted by the Coroner's Office are as follows:

Once a death has been reported to the Coroner an investigator will respond to the scene and conduct an investigation. As part of this process the decedent may be taken to the County Morgue pending further investigation and/or examination by a medical examiner (physician-pathologist) to determine the cause and manner of death.

The final determination will be based on the following information:

Initial Investigation: Information collected at the scene of the death and through follow-up investigation that will clarify medical history and circumstances surrounding the death.

Medical Examination:

(a) **External Examination:** A complete physical examination is conducted on the decedent. The findings and any known medical history are combined to determine the cause and manner of death. Although an external examination is non-invasive, it is necessary to obtain samples of body fluids to aid in determining the cause of death and/or contributing factors.

(b) **Autopsy:** A complete physical examination, internally as well as externally, may be conducted on the decedent which includes a thorough examination of each organ and if necessary, microscopic examination of the organs. The findings of this examination together with the investigative findings and any known medical history are combined to determine the cause and manner of death. Although an autopsy is an extensive examination, it is necessary to obtain samples of body fluids to aid in determining the cause of death and/or contributing factors.

It should be noted that due to the fact that some of the above examinations are based on laboratory analysis, the final determination may be delayed depending on the type of analysis required (Autopsy reports usually take 6-8 weeks to complete).

Prescription Medication: All prescription medication prescribed to the decedent will be collected, examined and counted. Due to restrictions under the Idaho Code, prescription medication prescribed to the decedent will be seized and destroyed. They cannot be left in the home.

Choosing a Mortuary: The Twin Falls County Coroner's Office has a system in place which utilizes most of the local mortuaries on a monthly rotation basis. What this means is that when the next of kin has no preference or is not immediately available to choose or there isn't any evidence of a pre-need designation by the deceased, the "on call mortuary" will transport the decedent to the their facility. This by no means obligates the next of kin to use that mortuary for their funeral arrangements. Preparations can then be made through that mortuary or any other mortuary or cremation service.

Personal Property: The Coroner is responsible for property that is either on the decedent or under the immediate control of the decedent. Property is then either released to the next of kin at the time of removal or notification. Otherwise the property is secured by the Coroner's Office. The property is available for release to the next of kin during normal office hours, 9:00 a.m. 5:00 pm Monday - Friday (Weekends by appointment only).

Twin Falls County Treasurer: In the event that the next of kin is not immediately available to secure the decedent's residence and personal possession, the County Treasurer may be called to secure the residence and the contents therein. This is done to protect the interest of the decedent and the next of kin. If the next of kin is available to take possession of the decedent's residence and its contents, there is no need for the involvement of the County Treasurer.

Death Certificates: Death certificates are generated by the mortuaries or cremation services and as such, your funeral director or cremation service director will assist you in obtaining copies of death certificates. Copies may also be obtained from the Bureau of Vital Statistics located in Boise, Idaho. There is a nominal fee for each death certificate and you may need more than one copy depending on the various aspects of the decedent's affairs. Web site address: usvitalrecords.org or Toll Free 1-844-477-4141.

Copies of Report: The next of kin may obtain copies of the Coroner's investigative report, reports of medical examination and toxicology from the Coroner's Office. Copies may be obtained in person or by written request. Medical examination reports can take up to several weeks before they are completed. *It should be noted that the reports of medical examination and toxicology can only be released to the legal next of kin or their designee. To obtain copies of police reports, you should contact the law enforcement agencies involved with the case.*

Identification and Viewing: Contrary to popular belief, it is not required or usually necessary for the next of kin to come to the Coroner's Office to visually identify the decedent. We understand you may wish to see the decedent as soon as possible. In consideration of this, we will work with the funeral home or cremation service of choice to expedite the release of the decedent for viewing purposes. You can then work directly with them to arrange for this service. Viewings of decedents scheduled for autopsy are usually not allowed until after the release back to the mortuary of preference.

Veterans: Persons who have served in the armed forces and were honorably discharged may be entitled to a Veterans' burial. For more information contact your local Veteran's Affairs Office 208-733-7610 Ext.2.

Related Agency Listings Agencies that may provide assistance or information to make arrangements are listed below for your reference.

➤ Twin Falls County Sheriff	208-736-4000
➤ Twin Falls Police Department	208-735-7200
➤ Idaho State Police	208-324-6000
➤ Buhl Police Department	208-543-4200
➤ Filer Police Department	208-326-5000
➤ Kimberly/Hansen Police Dept.	208-735-1911
➤ Mini Cassia Crematory (Rupert)	208-436-1800
➤ Demaray Memorial Chapel (Jerome)	208-324-4555
➤ Demaray Funeral Service (Gooding)	208-934-4406
➤ Farmer Funeral Chapel (Buhl)	208-543-4333
➤ Farnsworth Mortuary (Jerome)	208-324-7777
➤ Hansen Mortuary (Rupert)	208-436-5636
➤ Morrison Funeral Home (Rupert)	208-436-1800
➤ Morrison Payne Home (Burley)	208-678-2521
➤ Parke's Valley Funeral (Twin Falls)	208-735-0011
➤ Rasmussen Funeral Home (Burley)	208-678-2100
➤ Rosenau Funeral Home (Twin Falls)	208-944-3373
➤ Reynolds Funeral Chapel (Twin Falls)	208-733-4900
➤ Serenity Funeral Chapel (Twin Falls)	208-733-0991
➤ White Funeral Chapel (Twin Falls)	208-733-6600

Twin Falls County Coroner Staff

Gene Turley Elected Coroner
Will Carson Chief Deputy Coroner
Sabrina Awalt Senior Deputy Coroner
Kent Jones Deputy Coroner
Tammy Scheer Administrative Assistant



After Hours

Gene Turley (Coroner) 208-316-3116
Will Carson (Chief Deputy Coroner) 208-539-3719

gene.turley@co.twin-falls.id.us

TTY: 1-800-377-3529

Twin Falls County is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Assistance Organizations

Idaho Careline

Call 211 or 1-800-926-2588
www.211.idaho.gov

Twin Falls County Victim Witness Coordinator
208-736-4126 Lori Nebeker-Stewart

First Candle/SIDS Alliance

Telephone Support, Counselor, Education Materials
1-800-221-SIDS (7437)

“Kids Reaching Out to Each Other”

Youth Bereavement Support Group
208-734-4061

Maternal/Child Bereavement Volunteer Support Group

Support for grieving parents-loss of a child
208-733-8356 Julie Winter

Survivors of Suicide

For those who have lost loved ones due to suicide
Maxine Anderson
208-736-4972 Work / 208-326-5867 Home

Widowed Wellness

Shawna Wasco
208-736-2122

** Other services available, contact Coroner's Office **

Cleaning Services Specializing in biohazard clean-up

Med-Tech
24 Hour Emergency Service
(877)652-9984
(208)340-2411 - (208)957-1673
www.medtechcleaners.com

Aftermath
24 Hour Emergency Service
(800)493-1613
www.aftermathinc.com



Coroner's Office



GENE TURLEY

“Committed To Excellence”

The purpose of this pamphlet is to provide basic information about the Twin Falls County Coroner to assist you with the necessary procedures following a death.

404 Fairfield Street North
P.O. Box 126
Twin Falls, Idaho 83303-0126

208-733-7610 Ext. 1
Fax: 208-735-0107