

**Needs Assessment & Suggested Solutions and Standard
Practices**

**Based on the "County Coroners and Death
Investigations":**

**Office of Performance Evaluations Idaho Legislature
February 2024**

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Preface

The following document was created to identify possible solutions for standards and practices of the Idaho Coroner System with the goal of improving the shortfalls identified by the Idaho Office of Performance Evaluation (IOPE) report.

The suggested solutions are based on standards of practice within the Medicolegal Death Investigation profession in the United States following guidelines established by The Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science (O.S.A.C), The American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators (A.B.M.D.I), The International Association of Coroners & Medical Examiners (I.A.C.M.E), and statutes already in place in states that conduct death investigation through coroners.

IOPE Report February 2024

The following information is taken from the IOPE Report and cross referenced with other state legislation, along with coroner protocols and procedures.

Idaho's autopsy rate is the third lowest nationally, and last nationally in some key metrics like for deaths of children from external or unknown causes.

In 2018–2022, 7.8 percent of all deaths nationwide were autopsied compared to 3.9 percent in Idaho. Only two states had a lower percentage of deaths autopsied: Oregon and Maine. Both states employ a state medical examiner system.

Top Issues Identified in Idaho State Code for Coroners

1. Idaho provides no oversight or assistance for coroners at the state level.

a. Training Standards

Answer: Indiana and Arkansas, Training Board or Council & ISACC

- i. Revamping the ISACC to mirror the Indiana and Arkansas coroner associations.
 - ii. Creating a Training Board/Council for the state of Idaho that would provide basic medicolegal death investigation training for newly elected coroners and deputy coroners with a state-level certification and continuing education requirements.
 - 1. Certification will be based on the standards set forth by the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators (ABMDI). *see §3.1 (a) Solutions from this document for more detail
- b. Grant legal immunity where coroner's act within their rights and duties.

Where a coroner's duty encounters numerous circumstances in which the subject of their job may cause offense when they are acting in good faith and within reason, the coroner should be protected from legal liabilities that come from them performing their obligations.

Examples of Legal Immunity and Protection from Washington (RCW) and Arkansas (ACA) State Codes:

- i. RCW 68.50.115 Coroner and medical examiner liability - Release of information.

"No coroner, medical examiner, or his or her designee shall be liable, nor shall a cause of action exist, for any loss or damage based upon the release of any information related to his or her findings under RCW 68.50.105 if the coroner, medical examiner, or his or her designee acted in good faith in attempting to comply with the provisions of this chapter." [2013 c 295 § 2.]

a. Currently there is no statute in place in addition to legal immunity to protect the individual's death investigation records, and the coroner's. This is a violation of HIPAA laws, and can cause more damage than good. There is a need for a change in legislation to protect the confidentiality of an individual's records.

ii. RCW 68.50.015 Immunity for determining cause and manner of death.

"- Judicial review of determination. A county coroner or county medical examiner or persons acting in that capacity shall be immune from civil liability for determining the cause and manner of death. The accuracy of the determinations is subject to judicial review. " [1987 c 263 § 1.]

iii. ACA § 12-18-401 Generally - (paraphrased) Grants immunity to individuals who are mandated reporters and have acted in good faith.

iiii. ACA § 12-12-1713 Immunity for investigation participants.

"(a) Any person, official, or institution acting in good faith in the making of a report, the taking of a photograph, or the removal of a maltreated person under this subchapter shall have immunity from liability and suit for damages, civil or criminal, that otherwise might result by reason of those actions. (b) The good faith of any person required to report a case of adult maltreatment or long-term care facility resident maltreatment shall be presumed."

2. Idaho Code provides little to no direction for coroners on many of their critical functions and duties, creating an inconsistent death investigation system across the state.

a. Define 15 deaths reportable to coroners.

Answer: Identify the 15 deaths reportable at the national average.

- i. According to the IOPE Report, the average number of reportable deaths across the United States is 15, with the median being 14. *Note: There was a discrepancy found within the IOPE Report. Based on this, we will present what Idaho Code only identifies 8 reportable deaths within their statutes.
 - ii. **Deaths as listed under Idaho Code § 19-4301 County Coroner to Investigate Deaths**
 - 1. Violence
 - 2. Homicide
 - 3. Suicide
 - 4. Accident
 - 5. Under suspicious or unknown circumstances
 - 6. Death of a child without a known medical disease
 - 7. Stillbirth without a known medical disease
 - 8. Not under the care of the physician
 - iii. **The other reported deaths in other states include:**
 - 1. Accidents
 - 2. Suicide
 - 3. Violence
 - 4. Homicide
 - 5. Under suspicious or unknown or unnatural circumstances
 - 6. Sudden or when in apparent good health
 - 7. Not under care of health care provider
 - 8. Death may constitute threat to public health/terrorism/unknown disease/public interest
 - 9. Poisons/drugs/toxic agents
 - 10. Occurs within police custody/political subdivision jail
 - 11. State prison custody
 - 12. State facility/custody or care of state
 - 13. Child death without a known illness or under care - Suspicious circumstances or unknown cause
 - 14. Employment Related
 - 15. Unidentifiable/skeletal/suspected human remains
- b. Define unattended deaths.
- i. Taken from Arkansas: "(P) The death is of a person where a physician was not in attendance within thirty-six (36) hours preceding death, or, in pre-diagnosed terminal or bedfast cases, within thirty (30) days" (Page 26, 12-12-315 Notification of Certain Deaths, a1P).

- c. Define Law enforcement & coroner jurisdiction.
 - i. Although the standard often mentioned is that the "scene is the responsibility of law enforcement and the body is the responsibility of the coroner" a team approach respecting each office's respective duties and responsibilities is ideal. It is of the utmost importance for a coroner or death investigator to have access to a deceased individual as soon as practical to pronounce death and identify time sensitive post mortem changes. AR Code 14-15-302 (b) (1). A body shall not be moved without the consent of the coroner and in criminal cases the decision shall be made in concert with the lead LE investagtor.
- d. Define Autopsy requirements.
 - i. Idaho's autopsy rate is the third lowest nationally, and last nationally in some key metrics like for deaths of children from external or unknown causes.
 - ii. Answer: NAME Forensic Autopsy Standards
 1. The death is known or suspected to have been caused by apparent criminal violence.
 2. The death is unexpected and unexplained in an infant or child.
 3. The death is associated with police action.
 4. The death is apparently non-natural and in custody of a local, state, or federal institution.
 5. The death is due to acute workplace injury.
 6. The death is caused by apparent electrocution.
 7. The death is by apparent intoxication by alcohol, drugs, or poison, unless a significant interval has passed, and the medical findings and absence of trauma are well documented.
 8. The death is caused by unwitnessed or suspected drowning.
 9. The body is unidentified and the autopsy may aid in identification.
 10. The body is skeletonized.
 11. The body is charred.
 12. The forensic pathologist deems a forensic autopsy is necessary to determine cause of manner of death, or document injuries/disease, or collect evidence.
 13. The deceased is involved in a motor vehicle incident and an autopsy is necessary to document injuries and/or determine the cause of death.
- e. Certifying Cause and Manner of Death

- i. Training
- f. Mandated Reports of each case that is taken on within the Coroner's Office - There is currently no statutes in place, nor a system or association to hold individuals accountable when filing death reports.
 - i. Enforce the use of a data reporting system that is nationally accredited i.e. MDILog.
 - ii. Enlist a Quality Assurance team to regularly audit and enforce standards
 - iii. When applicable, report appropriate information to the respective local, state, federal, and/or other agencies

3. Establish basic MDI training for coroners and deputy coroners.

- a. Coroners in Idaho are required to complete 24 hours of continuing education every two years, but it is inconclusive how many coroners are actually completing the required education.
- b. Lack of basic training and lack of tracking continuing education.
- c. Idaho does not require basic certification. It only talks about going to a coroner school, but does not specify what that school would be.
 - i. Establish a Training Council to create statewide coroner and deputy coroner certification standards set forth by the ABMDI.
 - ii. It is necessary for Idaho to create a system that will mirror the standard practices of education similar to Indiana and Arkansas.

3.1 Solutions:

- a. Require and provide 40 hrs of ABMDI accredited training in place of "Coroner School" onslaught to the start of the job, and annual continuing education 16 hours.
 - i. Establish a committee of ABMDI certified individuals to create or adopt a standard course and timeframe of training to be used throughout the state.

1. Coroners must complete a minimum of 40 hrs of education & training as set by accredited education committee.
2. Require coroners to sit and pass a coroner's exam within 6 months of employment on completion of education to meet requirements.
3. Courses should be accessible and reasonable.
4. Training should include how to use EDRS and MDILog to chart and report

ii. Provide facilities, resources, and equipment that is needed to train.

iii. Hold individuals accountable

b. Solution of Accountability:

i. Currently, there is no system set in place to hold individuals accountable for their education and prior credentials.

ii. **Suggestion:** If coroners do not meet the requirements for beginning and continuing education, pay can be withheld, reduced, or position resigned.

iii. For example in Arkansas their standards are as follows:

1. Coroners must present a certificate of completion of this education to their county judge to show that they have completed what is required of them.
2. Additional education must be completed each year by the anniversary of their employment, and a certificate of completion must be presented to their county judge within the month of their anniversary of employment.
3. Regular audits performed by an accredited and trustworthy team to ensure that regulations are being met throughout the state.

4. Coroners are the lowest paid county-elected officials statewide, and low wages are a barrier to recruiting qualified coroners and deputies.

- a. Understanding the duties and responsibilities of a coroner beyond identifying cause and manner of death.
 - i. Arkansas County Coroner's 2022 Procedures Manual

"The county coroner is charged with the responsibility of determining the cause of death for those deaths properly the responsibility of the coroner. Although the duties of the county coroner are, necessarily, intermittent, the office is a full-time position. The coroner is tasked with the investigation of deaths occurring within the county 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days per year. At any time, the coroner is required to investigate deaths. When a death is reported to the coroner, he shall conduct an investigation concerning the circumstances surrounding the death of an individual and gather and review background information, including but not limited to, medical information and any other information which may be helpful in determining the cause and manner of death (ACA 14-15-301). These duties are mandated to be completed in very short timeframes." (Page. 6)
 - ii. ACA 14-15-301 - Powers and duties of a coroner.
 - iii. Realize funding opportunities via. Increased fees on death certificates and cremation authorizations, portions of local alcohol taxes to go towards toxicology & autopsy expenses, etc.
- b. Forming a set of statutes that directly lay out the duty, role, and responsibility of a coroner in the state of Idaho.
- c. Review of Coroner's Office Average Workload:
 - i. Average case types coroners encounter on a daily basis.

Death of an individual not under a physician's care: This could be the death of an individual at home, under a physician's care but having not been seen within the last ten days.

Accidental (10-15 Hours): Any death that occurs and not clearly due to a natural cause be it:

- Motor vehicle accidents i.e. fatalities that occur from a car crash, motor boat, ATV, etc. (Report to Dept. of Transportation)
- Fall from standing
- Firearms accident
- Overdose
- Workplace Injury (Report to OSHA)
- Etc.

Suicide (12-36 Hours): Any death that was an intentional act for the purpose of taking one's life. These cases can be the result of:

- Ingestion of drugs be they street or pharmaceuticals
- Hanging/Decapitation
- Use of firearms
- Motorized vehicle crash (intentional)
- Self-inflicted cutting wounds
- Farm equipment

Homicide (24-50 Hours): Any death of a person at the hand of another whether intentional or not.

i. Closely coordinated with law enforcement be it; County Sheriff's Office, City Police Departments, Idaho State Police, regional detective squad, Reservation Police Department, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Undetermined (Minimum of 36 Hours): Any death where "the information pointing to one manner of death is no more compelling than one or more other competing manners of death in thorough consideration of all available information. " (NAME 2002)

Death Involving Infants and Children (36-50 Hours): Any death of individuals who are age 18 & under, where the individual's death was sudden or not caused by an underlying condition.

ii. Basic Investigation Process

- a. Response to the scene anywhere from 20 mins to 1.5 hrs depending on where in the county

- b. Scene investigation is required which can average anywhere from .75-2.0 hrs. Photographs and witness statements.
- c. Collection, inventorying, and documenting decedent prescription medications 1 - 3 hours depending on how many prescriptions and quantity.
- d. Interview of family, friends, co-workers to create a psychological profile of decedent. Information to assist family and community in prevention.
- e. Contact legal next of kin and inform them of decedent and process.
- f. Request for records from:
 - i. EMS
 - ii. Law Enforcement
 - iii. Primary care physician
 - iv. Surgical records
 - v. Idaho Board of Pharmacy
 - vi. Medical Specialists
- g. Collect and review medical and psychological records to determine cause of death and comorbidities.
- h. Collect social history of decedent i.e. habits, employment status, level of education, race/ethnicity, Hx of substance abuse, psychological health, physical health, etc. Anything pertinent to investigating the individual's cause and manner of death.
- i. Upload photo images and begin to document the narrative of the case.
- j. Consult with family regarding the death certificate, investigation, and autopsy process if necessary.
- k. Attend Autopsy if necessary. **(Additional 16-36 HOURS depending on travel distance)**
- l. If suicide at a place of work OSHA must be advised.
- m. If a transportation accident involves a train, plane, etc. NTSB must be involved.
- n. Prepare and share requested investigative and autopsy reports with agencies involved in the case.

- o. Follow ups with family that can go on for months due to the timeline in receiving autopsy reports.
- p. Communicating with insurance providers on families behalf.

5. Idaho Code § 16-1605 & 39-3413 to be referenced and/or included in the "Coroner's" portion of Idaho Code.

IC § 16-1605 & 39-3413 states that coroner's are first responders and mandated reporters, however, this section is not referenced or included anywhere in the sections for coroners. Very few of Idaho's coroners know this. Because of this, the majority of coroners are not taking advantage of the benefits of being a first responder, nor are they performing their additional duties that are held under this status. The following outline the benefits and duties that each coroner should be using and performing as a first responder:

- a. Training Opportunities
 - i. Coroner's would obtain skills, knowledge, and the confidence needed to handle stressful situations they are consistently placed in while on the job.
 - ii. Better training provides the space to enforce higher quality education systems and accountability standards as mentioned previously.
 - iii. Increase in workplace & community safety.
- b. Better Funding
 - i. Government funded programs would be available for their disposal
 - ii. Essential equipment and resources would be provided
 - iii. Job security & safety
 - iv. Idaho's coroners would be able to meet National Standards
- c. Reduction of Workplace Injuries
 - i. Provides better and essential medical help to employees
 - ii. Mental Health services are provided and are crucial to prevent mental injuries that come with the occupation.
 - iii. First responders qualify for Disability and Death Benefits which would provide their families extra assistance if something were to happen to their loved one while performing their duties.
- d. Community & Employee Safety
 - Naloxone (Narcan) - An opioid reversal drug**
 - i. Frequently, MDIs come in contact with individuals who have died due to an illicit drug overdose. These drugs are usually potent and can be fatal. As the cause and manner of death is usually unknown when personnel first

respond on scene, it is beneficial to the lives involved to have and are trained to administer Naloxone.

ii. Receiving government funding, Coroners would be able to obtain and administer Naloxone (Narcan).

Mandated Reporter - What a Coroner Should Report On (although Idaho Code 16-1605 most coroners are not aware of this responsibility)

- i. Reporting of a case that involves child abuse or neglect; persons with disabilities abuse or neglect; elder abuse or neglect; domestic violence.
- ii. Cases that involve a health or safety threat to the community i.e. disease, poisoning, gang-related violence, etc.
- iii. Cases involving illicit substances/Overdose

Mandatory reporting to MDILog: Coroners should be reporting and documenting all cases on a standardized data repository where the data within Idaho can be organized using a minimum data set, securely held, and accessed. This can be used to identify public health issues and provide pertinent information to those invested in the work of the coroner i.e. Public Health & Safety Team, Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Investigation Project, Child Fatality Review Team, Elder Fatality Review Team (*None established in Idaho*), Idaho Violence Death Reporting System, State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System, etc.

Current Idaho Policy	Page Number	How to Improve	Sources
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<p>Idaho Code doesn't specify or explicitly state whether or not it's required for a coroner to be notified of deaths of individuals who are in police custody or jail.</p>	<p>IOPE Report pg. 6</p>	<p>· Clarify what circumstances would constitute a notification to the Coroner</p> <p>· Establish a uniform set of guidelines that clearly shows whose jurisdiction it is, who is involved, and how the chain of command should be</p> <p>· Regulations for how the case is handled and what and where the body goes to is clearly laid out.</p>	<p>· RCW § 68.50.010 Coroner's Jurisdiction Over Remains</p> <p>The jurisdiction of bodies of all deceased persons who come to their death suddenly when in apparent good health without medical attendance within the thirty-six hours preceding death; or where the circumstances of death indicate death was caused by unnatural or unlawful means; or where death occurs under suspicious circumstances; or where a coroner's autopsy or postmortem or coroner's inquest is to be held; or where death results from unknown or obscure causes, or where death occurs within one year following an accident; or where the death is caused by any violence whatsoever, or where death results from a known or suspected abortion; whether self-induced or otherwise; where death apparently results from drowning, hanging, burns, electrocution, gunshot wounds, stabs or cuts, lightning, starvation, radiation, exposure, alcoholism, narcotics or other addictions, tetanus, strangulations, suffocation or smothering; or where death is due to premature birth or still birth; or where death is due to a violent contagious disease or suspected contagious disease which may be a public health hazard; or where death results from alleged rape, carnal knowledge or sodomy, where death occurs in a jail or prison; where a body is found dead or is not claimed by relatives or friends, is hereby vested in the county coroner or medical examiner, which bodies may be removed and placed in the morgue under such rules as are adopted by the coroner or medical examiner with the approval of</p>
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			<p>the county commissioners, having jurisdiction, providing therein how the bodies shall be brought to and cared for at the morgue and held for the proper identification where necessary. [2021 c 127 § 7; 1963 c 178 § 1; 1953 c 188 § 1; 1917 c 90 § 3; RRS § 6042. Formerly RCW 68.08.010.]</p> <p>SC § 17-7-10 Coroners or solicitors shall order autopsies; autopsy to be ordered upon death of persons in penal institutions.</p> <p>The coroner of the county in which a body is found dead or the solicitor of the judicial circuit in which the county lies shall order an autopsy or post-mortem examination to be conducted to ascertain the cause of death. If any person dies while detained, incarcerated, or under the jurisdiction of a municipal, county, or regional holdover facility, holding cell, overnight lockup or jail, a county or regional prison camp, or a state correctional facility, the coroner of the county in which the death occurs or, should that be unknown, the county in which the institution is located shall order an autopsy immediately upon notification of the death. However, if the official in charge of the institution is unable to arrange an autopsy within the State of South Carolina, he shall provide the coroner with an affidavit attesting to this inability.</p> <p>In this event, the coroner shall consult with the physician who pronounced death, and, if not the same, with any other physician who is known to have treated the person within twelve months prior to his death. If the deceased person had a previously diagnosed</p>
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			<p>contagious, terminal illness or condition which is considered to be the reason for death, written confirmation must be obtained from at least two physicians who attended him prior to his death, and at least one of these physicians may not have been employed by or under contract with the institution or agency which was responsible for custody of the deceased person.</p> <p>The coroner may then determine that an autopsy is not required, and shall so certify in writing. Nevertheless, if the coroner decides that an autopsy is appropriate, he may order that one be arranged outside the State of South Carolina. Documentation of the death, the circumstances surrounding it, and all subsequent actions and decisions regarding the autopsy must be filed with the Jail and Prison Inspection Division of the Department of Corrections according to Section 24-9-35.</p> <p>HISTORY: 1962 Code Section 17-90; 1955 (49) 189; 1961 (52) 278; 1980 Act No. 512, Section 1; 1993 Act No. 116, Section 1.</p>
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<p>Idaho Code doesn't specify or explicitly state whether or not it's required for a coroner to be notified of deaths of individuals that constitute a threat to public health</p>	<p>IOPE Report pg. 6</p>	<p>· This should be included in the clarification of deaths that fall under Coroner's jurisdiction à listing out what a "threat to public health" actually means. Specifying in detail.</p> <p>· Standardized procedure and protocol should be set in place to establish safety not only to those on scene, but also for the surrounding community.</p>	<p>· RCW § 68.50.010 Coroner's Jurisdiction Over Remains</p> <p>The jurisdiction of bodies of all deceased persons who come to their death suddenly when in apparent good health without medical attendance within the thirty-six hours preceding death; or where the circumstances of death indicate death was caused by unnatural or unlawful means; or where death occurs under suspicious circumstances; or where a coroner's autopsy or postmortem or coroner's inquest is to be held; or where death results from unknown or obscure causes, or where death occurs within one year following an accident; or where the death is caused by any violence whatsoever, or where death results from a known or suspected abortion; whether self-induced or otherwise; where death apparently results from drowning, hanging, burns, electrocution, gunshot wounds, stabs or cuts, lightning, starvation, radiation, exposure, alcoholism, narcotics or other addictions, tetanus, strangulations, suffocation or smothering; or where death is due to premature birth or still birth; or where death is due to a violent contagious disease or suspected contagious disease which may be a public health hazard; or where death results from alleged rape, carnal knowledge or sodomy, where death occurs in a jail or prison; where a body is found dead or is not claimed by relatives or friends, is hereby vested in the county coroner or medical examiner, which bodies may be removed and placed in the morgue under such rules as are adopted by the coroner or medical examiner with the approval of</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Proper education and training should be required to respond to these types of calls 	<p>the county commissioners, having jurisdiction, providing therein how the bodies shall be brought to and cared for at the morgue and held for the proper identification where necessary. [2021 c 127 § 7; 1963 c 178 § 1; 1953 c 188 § 1; 1917 c 90 § 3; RRS § 6042. Formerly RCW 68.08.010.]</p>
<p>Idaho Code doesn't specify or explicitly state whether or not it's required for a coroner to be notified of deaths of individuals from poisoning and drug overdoses</p>	<p>IOPE Report pg. 6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Clarify what constitutes a suspected COD to be poisoning and/or Drug Overdose. List out the manner and cause of deaths that would make the jurisdiction to be handed over to the coroner. · 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · RCW § 68.50.010 Coroner's Jurisdiction Over Remains <p>The jurisdiction of bodies of all deceased persons who come to their death suddenly when in apparent good health without medical attendance within the thirty-six hours preceding death; or where the circumstances of death indicate death was caused by unnatural or unlawful means; or where death occurs under suspicious circumstances; or where a coroner's autopsy or postmortem or coroner's inquest is to be held; or where death results from unknown or obscure causes, or where death occurs within one year following an accident; or where the death is caused by any violence whatsoever, or where death results from a known or suspected abortion; whether self-induced or otherwise; where death apparently results from drowning, hanging, burns, electrocution, gunshot wounds, stabs or cuts, lightning, starvation, radiation, exposure, alcoholism, narcotics or other addictions, tetanus, strangulations, suffocation or smothering; or where death is due to</p>

			<p>premature birth or still birth; or where death is due to a violent contagious disease or suspected contagious disease which may be a public health hazard; or where death results from alleged rape, carnal knowledge or sodomy, where death occurs in a jail or prison; where a body is found dead or is not claimed by relatives or friends, is hereby vested in the county coroner or medical examiner, which bodies may be removed and placed in the morgue under such rules as are adopted by the coroner or medical examiner with the approval of the county commissioners, having jurisdiction, providing therein how the bodies shall be brought to and cared for at the morgue and held for the proper identification where necessary. [2021 c 127 § 7; 1963 c 178 § 1; 1953 c 188 § 1; 1917 c 90 § 3; RRS § 6042. Formerly RCW 68.08.010.]</p>
<p>No clarity in what an "unattended death" means.</p>	<p>IOPE Report pg. 7</p>	<p>· A definition that is specific, exact, and concise in which a death is seen as an unattended death.</p> <p>· Regulation needs to be put in place</p>	<p>Idaho Code 19-4301</p> <p>(2) If a death occurs that is not attended by a physician and the cause of death cannot be certified by a physician, the coroner must refer the investigation of the death to the sheriff of the county or the chief of police of the city in which the incident causing the death occurred or, if such county or city is unknown, to the sheriff or chief of police of the county or city where the body was found. The investigation shall be the responsibility of the sheriff or chief of police. Upon completion of the investigation, a written report shall be provided to the coroner of the county in which the death occurred or, if such county is unknown, to the coroner of the county where the body was found.</p>

		<p>for whose jurisdiction the decedent's body is under. This needs to be straightforward so a death investigation can be processed with efficiency, accuracy, and in a timely manner</p>	
<p>Lack of Notice to Coroner's Office</p> <p>Lack of Notice to a Coroner. Not only is there lack of communication, but there is no established penalty for individuals who fail to inform the Coroner of a decedent who falls under the</p>	<p>IOPE Report pg. 7</p>	<p>· A Notice to Coroner and penalty should be put into place. Lack of notification to a coroner affects their ability to identify TOD and individual's identity, collect evidence, conduct a</p>	<p>· RCW § 68.50.020 Notice to Coroner or medical examiner - Penalty</p> <p>It shall be the duty of every person who knows of the existence and location of human remains coming under the jurisdiction of the coroner or medical examiner as set forth in RCW 68.50.010 or 27.44.055, to notify the coroner, medical examiner, or law enforcement thereof in the most expeditious manner possible, unless such person shall have good reason to believe that such notice has already been given. Any person knowing of the existence of such human remains and not having good reason to believe that the coroner has notice thereof and who shall fail to give notice to the coroner as aforesaid, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. For purposes of this section and unless the context clearly</p>

<p>Coroner's Jurisdiction.</p>		<p>thorough postmortem investigation.</p>	<p>requires otherwise, "human remains" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 68.04.020. Human remains also include, but is not limited to, skeletal remains. [2016 c 221 § 2; 1987 c 331 § 55; 1917 c 90 § 4; RRS § 6043. Formerly RCW 68.08.020.]</p> <p>RCW 70.58A.200 Reports of death—Filing and registration requirements.</p> <p>(1) (a) Reports of death and fetal death must comply with the requirements of this section. (b) For the purposes of this section, "death" includes "fetal death" as defined in RCW 70.58A.010. (2) A complete report of death must be filed with the local registrar in the local health jurisdiction where the death occurred for each death that occurs in this state. Except for circumstances covered by subsection (7) of this section, the report must be filed within five calendar days after the death or finding of human remains and prior to final disposition of the human remains as required by this section. (a) If the place of death is unknown and the human remains are found in state prior to final disposition, the death must be filed in state and the place where the human remains were found is the place of death. (b) When death occurs in a moving conveyance within or outside the United States and the human remains are first removed from the conveyance in state, the death must be filed in state and the place of death is the place where the remains were removed from the moving conveyance. (c) In all other cases, the place where death is pronounced is the place where death occurred. (d) An approximate date of</p>
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			<p>death may be used if date of death is unknown. If the date cannot be determined by approximation, the date of death must be the date the human remains were found.</p> <p>(3) If the death occurred with medical attendance, a funeral director, funeral establishment, or person having the right to control the disposition of the human remains under RCW 68.50.160 shall: (a) Obtain and enter personal data on the report of death about the decedent from the person best qualified to provide the information; (b) Provide the report of death to the medical certifier within two calendar days after the death or finding of human remains; (c) File the completed report of death with the local registrar; and (d) Obtain a burial-transit permit prior to the disposition of the human remains as required in RCW 70.58A.210.</p> <p>(4) The medical certifier shall: (a) Attest to the cause, date, and time of death; and (b) Return the report of death to the funeral director, funeral establishment, or person having the right to control the disposition of the human remains under RCW 68.50.160 within two calendar days.</p> <p>(5) The report of death may be completed by another individual qualified to be a medical certifier as defined in RCW 70.58A.010 who has access to the medical history of the decedent when: (a) The medical certifier is absent or unable to attest to the cause, date, and time of death; or (b) The death occurred due to natural causes, and the medical certifier gives approval.</p> <p>(6) If the death occurred without medical attendance, the funeral director, funeral establishment, or person having the right to control the disposition of the human remains under RCW 68.50.160 shall provide the report of death</p>
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			<p>to the coroner, medical examiner, or local health officer as allowed by (a) of this subsection.</p> <p>(a) If the death occurred due to natural causes, the coroner, medical examiner, or local health officer shall determine whether to certify the report of death. If the coroner, medical examiner, or local health officer decides to certify the report of death, the person certifying the report shall: (i) Attest to the manner, cause, and date of death without holding an inquest or performing an autopsy or postmortem, based on statements of relatives, persons in attendance during the last sickness, persons present at the time of death, or other persons having adequate knowledge of the facts; (ii) Note that there was no medical attendance at the time of death; and (iii) Return the report of death to the funeral home within two calendar days. (b) If the death appears to be the result of unlawful or unnatural causes, the coroner or medical examiner shall: (i) Attest to the cause, place, and date of death; (ii) Note that there was no medical attendance at the time of death; (iii) Note when the cause of death is pending investigation; and (iv) Return the report of death to the funeral director, funeral establishment, or person having the right to control the disposition of the human remains under RCW 68.50.160 within two calendar days. (7) When there is no funeral director, funeral establishment, or person having the right to control the disposition of human remains under chapter 68.50 RCW, the coroner, medical examiner, or local health officer shall file the completed report of death with the local registrar as</p>
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			<p>required by subsection (2) of this section. (8) When a coroner or medical examiner determines that there is sufficient circumstantial evidence to indicate that an individual has died in the county or in waters contiguous to the county, and that it is unlikely that the body will be recovered, the coroner or medical examiner shall file a report of death, including the cause, place, and date of death, to the extent possible. (9) The coroner or medical examiner in a county in which a decedent was last known to be alive may file a report of death with the local registrar when the county in which the presumed death occurred cannot be determined with certainty. The coroner or medical examiner shall file a report of death, including the cause, place, and date of death, to the extent possible. (10) The coroner or medical examiner having jurisdiction may release information contained in a report of death according to RCW 68.50.300. (11) The local registrar shall: (a) Review filed reports of death to ensure completion in accordance with this chapter; (b) Request missing information or corrections; (c) Ensure issuance of the burial-transit permit as required under RCW 70.58A.210; (d) Register a report of death with the department if it has been completed and submitted in accordance with this section. (12) A medical certifier, coroner, medical examiner, or local health officer shall submit an affidavit of correction to the state registrar to amend the report of death within five calendar days of receipt of an autopsy result or other information that completes or amends the cause of death from that originally filed with the department. (13) The</p>
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			<p>department may require a medical certifier, coroner, medical examiner, or local health officer to provide additional or clarifying information to properly code and classify cause of death. [2019 c 148 § 13.]</p> <p>SC § 17-7-510 Penalty for Burying Body Without Notice or Inquiry</p> <p>It is unlawful for a person to bury or cause to be buried the dead body of a person supposed to have come to a violent death before notice to the coroner to examine the body and before inquiry is made into the manner and circumstances of the death.</p> <p>A person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined in the discretion of the court or imprisoned not more than three years. The coroner shall bind him in recognizance, with sufficient surety, to appear and stand his trial.</p> <p>HISTORY: 1962 Code Section 17-141; 1952 Code Section 17-141; 1942 Code Sections 1091, 1094; 1932 Code Sections 1091, 1094; Cr. P. '22 Sections 178, 181; Cr. C. '12 Sections 1021, 1024; Cr. C. '02 Sections 723, 726; G. S. 2686, 2689; R. S. 602, 605; 1839 (11) 77, 78; 1993 Act No. 184, Section 192.</p> <p>SC § 17-5-530. Duty to notify coroner's or medical examiner's office of certain deaths and stillbirths; inquiry; findings; notification of next-of-kin; consent for certain actions.</p> <p>(A) If a person dies:</p>
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			<p>(1) as a result of violence;</p> <p>(2) as a result of apparent suicide;</p> <p>(3) when in apparent good health;</p> <p>(4) when unattended by a physician;</p> <p>(5) in any suspicious or unusual manner;</p> <p>(6) while an inmate of a penal or correctional institution;</p> <p>(7) as a result of stillbirth when unattended by a physician; or</p> <p>(8) in a health care facility, as defined in Section 44-7-130(10) other than nursing homes, within twenty-four hours of entering a health care facility or within twenty-four hours after having undergone an invasive surgical procedure at the health care facility;</p> <p>a person having knowledge of the death immediately shall notify the county coroner's or medical examiner's office. This procedure also must be followed upon discovery of anatomical material suspected of being or determined to be a part of a human body.</p> <p>(B) The coroner or medical examiner shall make an immediate inquiry into the cause and manner of death and shall reduce the findings to writing on forms provided for this purpose. If the inquiry is made by a medical examiner, the medical examiner shall retain one copy of the form and forward one copy to the coroner. In the case of violent death, one copy must be</p>
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			<p>forwarded to the county solicitor of the county in which the death occurred.</p> <p>(C) The coroner or medical examiner shall notify in writing the deceased person's next-of-kin, if known, that in the course of performing the autopsy, body parts may have been retained for the purpose of investigating the cause and manner of death.</p> <p>(D) In performing an autopsy or post-mortem examination, no body parts, as defined in Section 44-43-305, removed from the body may be used for any purpose other than to determine the cause or manner of death unless the person authorized to consent, as defined in Section 44-43-315, has given informed consent to the procedure. The person giving the informed consent must be given the opportunity to give informed consent and authorize the procedure on a witnessed, written consent form using language understandable to the average lay person after face-to-face communication with a physician, coroner, or medical examiner about the procedure. If the person authorizing the procedure is unable to consent in person, consent may be given through a recorded telephonic communication.</p> <p>(E) If the coroner or medical examiner orders an autopsy upon review of a death pursuant to item (8) of subsection (A), the autopsy must not be performed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) at the health care facility where the death occurred;(2) by a physician who treated the patient; or(3) by a physician who is employed by the health care facility in which the death occurred;
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			<p>unless the coroner or medical examiner certifies that no reasonable alternative exists.</p> <p>HISTORY: 2001 Act No. 73, Section 1; 2010 Act No. 226, Section 3, eff July 1, 2010; 2012 Act No. 128, Section 1, eff March 13, 2012.</p> <p>skeleton</p> <p>Arkansas A.C.A §12-12-315 - Notification of certain deaths.</p> <p>(a) (1) The county coroner, prosecuting attorney, and either the county sheriff or the chief of police of the municipality in which the death of a human being occurs shall be promptly notified by any physician, law enforcement officer, undertaker or embalmer, jailer, or coroner or by any other person present or with knowledge of the death if:</p> <p>(A) The death appears to be caused by violence or appears to be the result of a homicide or a suicide or to be accidental;</p> <p>(B) The death appears to be the result of the presence of drugs or poisons in the body;</p> <p>(C) The death appears to be a result of a motor vehicle accident, or the body was found in or near a roadway or railroad;</p> <p>(D) The death appears to be a result of a motor vehicle accident and there is no obvious trauma to the body;</p> <p>(E) The death occurs while the person is in a state mental institution or hospital and there is no previous medical history to explain the death, or while the person is in police custody or jail other than a jail operated by the Department of Correction;</p>
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			<p>(F) The death appears to be the result of a fire or an explosion;</p> <p>(G) The death of a minor child appears to indicate child abuse prior to death;</p> <p>(H) Human skeletal remains are recovered or an unidentified deceased person is discovered;</p> <p>(I) Postmortem decomposition exists to the extent that an external examination of the corpse cannot rule out injury, or in which the circumstances of death cannot rule out the commission of a crime;</p> <p>(J) The death appears to be the result of drowning;</p> <p>(K) The death is of an infant or a minor child under eighteen (18) years of age;</p> <p>(L) The manner of death appears to be other than natural;</p> <p>(M) The death is sudden and unexplained;</p> <p>(N) The death occurs at a work site;</p> <p>(O) The death is due to a criminal abortion;</p> <p>(P) The death is of a person where a physician was not in attendance within thirty-six (36) hours preceding death, or, in prediagnosed terminal or bedfast cases, within thirty (30) days;</p> <p>(Q) A person is admitted to a hospital emergency room unconscious and is unresponsive, with cardiopulmonary resuscitative measures being performed, and dies within</p>
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			<p>twenty-four (24) hours of admission without regaining consciousness or responsiveness, unless a physician was in attendance within thirty-six (36) hours preceding presentation to the hospital, or, in cases in which the decedent had a prediagnosed terminal or bedfast condition, unless a physician was in attendance within thirty (30) days preceding presentation to the hospital;</p> <p>(R) The death occurs in the home; or</p> <p>(S) (i) The death poses a potential threat to public health or safety.</p> <p>(ii) Upon receiving notice of a death that poses a potential threat to public health or safety, the county coroner shall immediately notify the Department of Health.</p> <p>(2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require an investigation, autopsy, or inquest in any case in which death occurred without medical attendance solely because the deceased was under treatment by prayer or spiritual means in accordance with the tenets and practices of a well-recognized church or religious denomination.</p> <p>(b) With regard to any death in a correctional facility, the county coroner and the State Medical Examiner shall be notified, and when previous medical history does not exist to explain the death, the Department of Arkansas State Police shall be notified.</p> <p>(c) A violation of the provisions of this section is a Class A misdemeanor.</p>
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<p>Lack of Definition in the Coroner's Authority</p>		<p>-Clearly define who a coroner is, what their responsibilities are, and the authority they hold</p> <p>-Include the Coroner's Roles and Responsibilities in First Responders' training in death cases</p> <p>-Clearly define the authorities and power they hold when a death investigation</p> <p>-Occurs i.e. define when an individual must seek the consent of the coroner before</p>	<p>SC § 17-5-530. Duty to notify coroner's or medical examiner's office of certain deaths and stillbirths; inquiry; findings; notification of next-of-kin; consent for certain actions.</p> <p>(A) If a person dies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) as a result of violence; (2) as a result of apparent suicide; (3) when in apparent good health; (4) when unattended by a physician; (5) in any suspicious or unusual manner; (6) while an inmate of a penal or correctional institution; (7) as a result of stillbirth when unattended by a physician; or (8) in a health care facility, as defined in Section 44-7-130(10) other than nursing homes, within twenty-four hours of entering a health care facility or within twenty-four hours after having undergone an invasive surgical procedure at the health care facility; <p>a person having knowledge of the death immediately shall notify the county coroner's or medical examiner's office. This procedure also must be followed upon discovery of anatomical material suspected of being or determined to be a part of a human body.</p> <p>(B) The coroner or medical examiner shall make an immediate inquiry into the cause and manner of death</p>
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		<p>a particular action can follow in the process of investigation</p> <p>-Penalize those who do not follow the proper chain of command</p>	<p>and shall reduce the findings to writing on forms provided for this purpose. If the inquiry is made by a medical examiner, the medical examiner shall retain one copy of the form and forward one copy to the coroner. In the case of violent death, one copy must be forwarded to the county solicitor of the county in which the death occurred.</p> <p>(C) The coroner or medical examiner shall notify in writing the deceased person's next-of-kin, if known, that in the course of performing the autopsy, body parts may have been retained for the purpose of investigating the cause and manner of death.</p> <p>(D) In performing an autopsy or post-mortem examination, no body parts, as defined in Section 44-43-305, removed from the body may be used for any purpose other than to determine the cause or manner of death unless the person authorized to consent, as defined in Section 44-43-315, has given informed consent to the procedure. The person giving the informed consent must be given the opportunity to give informed consent and authorize the procedure on a witnessed, written consent form using language understandable to the average lay person after face-to-face communication with a physician, coroner, or medical examiner about the procedure. If the person authorizing the procedure is unable to consent in person, consent may be given through a recorded telephonic communication.</p> <p>(E) If the coroner or medical examiner orders an autopsy upon review of a death pursuant to item (8) of subsection (A), the autopsy must not be performed:</p> <p>(1) at the health care facility where the death occurred;</p>
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			<p>(2) by a physician who treated the patient; or</p> <p>(3) by a physician who is employed by the health care facility in which the death occurred;</p> <p>unless the coroner or medical examiner certifies that no reasonable alternative exists.</p> <p>HISTORY: 2001 Act No. 73, Section 1; 2010 Act No. 226, Section 3, eff July 1, 2010; 2012 Act No. 128, Section 1, eff March 13, 2012.</p> <p>RCW § 68.50.020 Notice to Coroner - Penalty</p> <p>It shall be the duty of every person who knows of the existence and location of human remains coming under the jurisdiction of the coroner or medical examiner as set forth in RCW 68.50.010 or 27.44.055, to notify the coroner, medical examiner, or law enforcement thereof in the most expeditious manner possible, unless such person shall have good reason to believe that such notice has already been given. Any person knowing of the existence of such human remains and not having good reason to believe that the coroner has notice thereof and who shall fail to give notice to the coroner as aforesaid, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. For purposes of this section and unless the context clearly requires otherwise, "human remains" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 68.04.020. Human remains also includes, but is not limited to, skeletal remains. [2016 c 221 § 2; 1987 c 331 § 55; 1917 c 90 § 4; RRS § 6043. Formerly RCW 68.08.020.]</p>
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			<p>RCW § 68.50.050 Removal or concealment of body—Penalty.</p> <p>(1) Any person, not authorized or directed by the coroner or medical examiner or their deputies, who removes the body of a deceased person not claimed by a relative or friend, or moves, disturbs, molests, or interferes with the human remains coming within the jurisdiction of the coroner or medical examiner as set forth in RCW 68.50.010, to any undertaking rooms or elsewhere, or any person who knowingly directs, aids, or abets such unauthorized moving, disturbing, molesting, or taking, and any person who knowingly conceals the human remains, shall in each of said cases be guilty of a gross misdemeanor.</p> <p>(2) In evaluating whether it is necessary to retain jurisdiction and custody of human remains under RCW 68.50.010, 68.50.645, and 27.44.055, the coroner or medical examiner shall consider the deceased's religious beliefs, if known, including the tenets, customs, or rites related to death and burial.</p> <p>(3) For purposes of this section and unless the context clearly requires otherwise, "human remains" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 68.04.020. Human remains also includes, but is not limited to, skeletal remains.</p> <p>[2016 c 221 § 1; 2011 c 96 § 48; 1917 c 90 § 7; RRS § 6046. Formerly RCW 68.08.050.]</p> <p>RCW § 68.50.090 Penalty.</p>
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			<p>Any person violating any provision of RCW 68.50.060 through 68.50.080 shall upon conviction thereof be fined in any sum not exceeding five hundred dollars.</p> <p>[1987 c 331 § 56; 1891 c 123 § 4; RRS § 10029. Formerly RCW 68.08.090.]</p>
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<p>Autopsies</p> <p>There is a deficit in what constitutes an individual's death to warrant an autopsy, costs and expenses, transportation, etc. Currently, ID Code states that it is up to the Coroner's discretion. Currently, Idaho does not meet National Standards in terms of autopsy numbers à MAJOR CONCERN... how many deaths are being reported incorrectly and incompletely investigated because of this?</p>	<p>IOPE Report pg. 7</p>	<p>· An amendment needs to be added to ID Code that clearly defines what Suspected CODs render further investigation via autopsy</p> <p>· Code should clearly lay out rules for how the body should be transported, and who can do that. A penalty should be in place for tampering with any locks or seals without the coroner's permission.</p> <p>· A break down of the costs of autopsy and who bears the</p>	<p>· SC § 17-7-10 Coroners or solicitors shall order autopsies; autopsy to be ordered upon death of persons in penal institutions.</p> <p>The coroner of the county in which a body is found dead or the solicitor of the judicial circuit in which the county lies shall order an autopsy or post-mortem examination to be conducted to ascertain the cause of death. If any person dies while detained, incarcerated, or under the jurisdiction of a municipal, county, or regional holdover facility, holding cell, overnight lockup or jail, a county or regional prison camp, or a state correctional facility, the coroner of the county in which the death occurs or, should that be unknown, the county in which the institution is located shall order an autopsy immediately upon notification of the death. However, if the official in charge of the institution is unable to arrange an autopsy within the State of South Carolina, he shall provide the coroner with an affidavit attesting to this inability.</p> <p>In this event, the coroner shall consult with the physician who pronounced death, and, if not the same, with any other physician who is known to have treated the person within twelve months prior to his death. If the deceased person had a previously diagnosed contagious, terminal illness or condition which is considered to be the reason for death, written confirmation must be obtained from at least two physicians who attended him prior to his death, and at least one of these physicians may not have been employed by or under contract with the institution or</p>
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		<p>financial responsibility</p> <p>· There's a lack of facilities and funding that is being put towards this. An increase in accessibility and facilities would allow coroner's across the state to be up to code. If an adequate budget is established, a penalty should be put into place for requesting to reduce their funds, or to not use their allotted money intended for autopsy.</p> <p>→ maybe include a</p>	<p>agency which was responsible for custody of the deceased person.</p> <p>The coroner may then determine that an autopsy is not required, and shall so certify in writing. Nevertheless, if the coroner decides that an autopsy is appropriate, he may order that one be arranged outside the State of South Carolina. Documentation of the death, the circumstances surrounding it, and all subsequent actions and decisions regarding the autopsy must be filed with the Jail and Prison Inspection Division of the Department of Corrections according to Section 24-9-35.</p> <p>HISTORY: 1962 Code Section 17-90; 1955 (49) 189; 1961 (52) 278; 1980 Act No. 512, Section 1; 1993 Act No. 116, Section 1.</p> <p>· RCW § 68.50.040, 68.50.102 (Cost to petition), 68.50.103, 68.50.104 (Cost of Autopsy), 68.50.105 (Autopsy records, confidentiality & exceptions), 68.50.106</p> <p>SC § 17-5-530. Duty to notify coroner's or medical examiner's office of certain deaths and stillbirths; inquiry; findings; notification of next-of-kin; consent for certain actions</p> <p>(A) If a person dies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) as a result of violence; (2) as a result of apparent suicide; (3) when in apparent good health; (4) when unattended by a physician;
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		<p>courtesy notice to the next of kin, in writing, notifying that "body parts may have been retained for the purpose of investigating the cause and manner of death." (SC § 17-5-530)</p>	<p>(5) in any suspicious or unusual manner;</p> <p>(6) while an inmate of a penal or correctional institution;</p> <p>(7) as a result of stillbirth when unattended by a physician; or</p> <p>(8) in a health care facility, as defined in Section 44-7-130(10) other than nursing homes, within twenty-four hours of entering a health care facility or within twenty-four hours after having undergone an invasive surgical procedure at the health care facility;</p> <p>a person having knowledge of the death immediately shall notify the county coroner's or medical examiner's office. This procedure also must be followed upon discovery of anatomical material suspected of being or determined to be a part of a human body.</p> <p>(B) The coroner or medical examiner shall make an immediate inquiry into the cause and manner of death and shall reduce the findings to writing on forms provided for this purpose. If the inquiry is made by a medical examiner, the medical examiner shall retain one copy of the form and forward one copy to the coroner. In the case of violent death, one copy must be forwarded to the county solicitor of the county in which the death occurred.</p> <p>(C) The coroner or medical examiner shall notify in writing the deceased person's next-of-kin, if known, that in the course of performing the autopsy, body parts may have been retained for the purpose of investigating the cause and manner of death.</p>
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			<p>(D) In performing an autopsy or post-mortem examination, no body parts, as defined in Section 44-43-305, removed from the body may be used for any purpose other than to determine the cause or manner of death unless the person authorized to consent, as defined in Section 44-43-315, has given informed consent to the procedure. The person giving the informed consent must be given the opportunity to give informed consent and authorize the procedure on a witnessed, written consent form using language understandable to the average lay person after face-to-face communication with a physician, coroner, or medical examiner about the procedure. If the person authorizing the procedure is unable to consent in person, consent may be given through a recorded telephonic communication.</p> <p>(E) If the coroner or medical examiner orders an autopsy upon review of a death pursuant to item (8) of subsection (A), the autopsy must not be performed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) at the health care facility where the death occurred;(2) by a physician who treated the patient; or(3) by a physician who is employed by the health care facility in which the death occurred; <p>unless the coroner or medical examiner certifies that no reasonable alternative exists.</p> <p>RCW § 68.50.100 Dissection, when permitted—Autopsy of person under the age of three years.</p>
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			<p>(1) The right to dissect a dead body shall be limited to cases specially provided by statute or by the direction or will of the deceased; cases where a coroner is authorized to hold an inquest upon the body, and then only as he or she may authorize dissection; and cases where the spouse, state registered domestic partner, or next of kin charged by law with the duty of burial shall authorize dissection for the purpose of ascertaining the cause of death, and then only to the extent so authorized: PROVIDED, That the coroner, in his or her discretion, may make or cause to be made by a competent pathologist, toxicologist, or physician, an autopsy or postmortem in any case in which the coroner has jurisdiction of a body: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That the coroner may with the approval of the University of Washington and with the consent of a parent or guardian deliver any body of a deceased person under the age of three years over which he or she has jurisdiction to the University of Washington medical school for the purpose of having an autopsy made to determine the cause of death.</p> <p>(2) Every person who shall make, cause, or procure to be made any dissection of a body, except as provided in this section, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.</p> <p>[2007 c 156 § 21; 2003 c 53 § 307; 1963 c 178 § 2; 1953 c 188 § 2; 1909 c 249 § 237; RRS § 2489. Formerly RCW 68.08.100.]</p>
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<p>Idea: In WA, they've established a State Forensics Investigations Council that includes a Forensic Toxicologist (head of state). This council authorizes and directs the toxicology and autopsy procedures and regulations throughout the state. They may also review requests from Coroners, MEs, and Prosecuting Attorneys to ensure that the judgment call to make the autopsy was under good judgment. Also, they are legally required to hold their facilities</p>		<p>Benefits of this</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Streamlines the process of determining whether or not a case warrants for an autopsy - A higher quality of services could be provided due to organization and regulations - Insurance behind the coroner's and their decision to order an autopsy - Facilities 	<p>RCW § 68.50.107 State Toxicological Laboratory Established - State Toxicologist</p> <p>There shall be established in conjunction with the chief of the Washington state patrol and under the authority of the state forensic investigations council a state toxicological laboratory under the direction of the state toxicologist whose duty it will be to perform all necessary toxicologic procedures requested by all coroners, medical examiners, and prosecuting attorneys. The state forensic investigations council, after consulting with the chief of the Washington state patrol and director of the bureau of forensic laboratory services, shall appoint a toxicologist as state toxicologist, who shall report to the director of the bureau of forensic laboratory services and the office of the chief of the Washington state patrol. Toxicological services shall be funded by disbursement from the spirits, beer, and wine restaurant; spirits, beer, and wine private club; spirits, beer, and wine nightclub; spirits, beer, and wine VIP airport lounge; and sports entertainment facility license fees as provided in RCW 66.08.180 and by appropriation from the death investigations account as provided in RCW 43.79.445.</p>
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<p>up to National Standards.</p> <p>Funding: "Toxicological services shall be funded by disbursement from the spirits, beer, and wine restaurants, the spirits, beer, and wine private ... [and] night club, and sports entertainment facility license fees" Idaho could use funding that the State receives from these licenses and fees to fund their death investigation medical procedures.</p>		<p>would be held accountable to meet the national standard and hold the proper accreditations</p> <p>- Out source funding means that coroners would be able to not worry about stretching their very limited budget to help aid in their death investigations . Instead, they would be able to put that money that was set aside for toxicology into holes in their other responsibilities that they</p>	<p>[2011 c 325 § 9; 2009 c 271 § 11. Prior: 1999 c 281 § 13; 1999 c 40 § 8; 1995 c 398 § 10; 1986 c 87 § 2; 1983 1st ex.s. c 16 § 10; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 84 § 1; 1970 ex.s. c 24 § 1; 1953 c 188 § 13. Formerly RCW 68.08.107.]</p>
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		<p>fulfill i.e. office and job basics, uniforms, facilities or upgrades to facilities to make them up to code, better wages and benefits, etc.</p>	
<p>CONSENT TO EMBALM OR CREMATE A BODY An outline of this is missing within ID State Code, which has caused many "mishaps" to happen and heavily affects a Coroner's investigation.</p>		<p>- If Idaho continues to not provide secure morgues and/or areas in which the decedent can be held until the investigation has ceased, there needs to be a section that articulates the importance of not touching,</p>	<p>RCW § 68.50.108 Autopsies, postmortems—Consent to embalm, cremate body, or make final disposition—Time limitation.</p> <p>No dead body upon which the coroner, or prosecuting attorney, if there is not a coroner in the county, may perform an autopsy or postmortem, may be embalmed or make final disposition without the consent of the coroner having jurisdiction. Failure to obtain such consent is a misdemeanor. However, such autopsy or postmortem must be performed within five days, unless the coroner obtains an order from the superior court extending such time.</p> <p>[2019 c 432 § 19; 1953 c 188 § 8. Formerly RCW 68.08.108.]</p> <p>Arkansas § 12-12-319</p>

		<p>handling, moving, cremating, embalming, or DOING ANYTHING to the body until consent is obtained via the coroner.</p> <p>- A penalty should be put into place if this law is broken as it is tampering with evidence of an investigation.</p>	<p>(a) It shall be unlawful to embalm a dead body when the body is subject to examination by the State Medical Examiner or his or her associates, assistants, or deputies as provided for in this subchapter, unless authorized by the examiner or his or her associates, assistants, or deputies or unless authorized by the prosecuting attorney of the jurisdiction in which the death occurs to so embalm.</p> <p>(b) When a body subject to examination by the examiner or his or her associates has been embalmed without authorization by or prior notice to the examiner or his or her associates, assistants, or deputies as provided for in this subchapter, the Director of the State Crime Laboratory may, at his or her discretion, require an order from the circuit court of the jurisdiction in which death occurred before proceeding with his or her duties and responsibilities under this subchapter. (c) Persons violating the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a Class C misdemeanor.</p>
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<p>Lack of Continued Education for Coroners & Accountability</p> <p>Coroners in Idaho are not required to have much in terms of experience when they assume the position. When they get to the field, they are required to complete 24hrs of coroner's school, however, this isn't always monitored.</p>	<p>IOPE Report pg 8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Minimum requirement of training before assuming position -Penalty to individual who fails to complete -Create a standardized education course route for the Coroners in Idaho -Annual refresher courses that are accredited -Provide more training resources -Train in EDRS 	<p>South Carolina § 17-5-130. Coroner qualifications; affidavits of candidates; training; exemptions; Coroners Training Advisory Committee; Expenses.</p> <p>(A) (1) A coroner in this State shall have all of the following qualifications, the person shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) be a citizen of the United States; (b) be a resident of the county in which the person seeks the office of coroner for at least one year before qualifying for the election to the office; (c) be a registered voter; (d) have attained the age of twenty-one years before the date of qualifying for election to the office; (e) have obtained a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent by the State Department of Education; and (f) have not been convicted of a felony offense or an offense involving moral turpitude contrary to the laws of this State, another state, or the United States. <p>(2) In addition to the requirements of subsection (A) (1), a coroner in this State shall have at least one of the following qualifications, the person shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) have at least three years of experience in death investigation with a law enforcement agency, coroner, or medical examiner agency; (b) have a two-year associate degree and two years of experience in death investigation with a law
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		<p>-Standard accountability to individuals who need to complete their courses</p> <p>-List out specifics on what the coroner and employees should provide as proof of continued education to county judge on the year mark of their employment date</p>	<p>enforcement agency, coroner, or medical examiner agency;</p> <p>(c) have a four-year baccalaureate degree and one year of experience in death investigation with a law enforcement agency, coroner, or medical examiner agency;</p> <p>(d) be a law enforcement officer, as defined by Section 23-23-10(E)(1), who is certified by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Training Council with a minimum of two years of experience;</p> <p>(e) have completed a recognized forensic science degree or certification program or be enrolled in a recognized forensic science degree or certification program to be completed within one year of being elected to the office of coroner;</p> <p>(f) be a medical doctor; or</p> <p>(g) have a bachelor of science degree in nursing.</p> <p>(B)(1) A person who offers his candidacy for the office of coroner, no later than the close of filing, shall file a sworn affidavit with the county executive committee of the person's political party.</p> <p>(2) The county executive committee of a political party with whom a person has filed his affidavit must file a copy of the affidavit with the appropriate county election commission by noon on the tenth day following the deadline for filing affidavits by candidates. If the tenth day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, the affidavit must be filed by noon the following day.</p>
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			<p>(3) A person who seeks nomination by petition for the office of coroner, no later than the close of filing, shall file a sworn affidavit with the county election commission in the county of his residence.</p> <p>(4) The affidavit required by the provisions of this subsection must contain the following information:</p> <p>(a) the person's date and place of birth;</p> <p>(b) the person's citizenship;</p> <p>(c) the county the person is a resident of, and how long the person has been a resident of that county;</p> <p>(d) whether the person is a registered voter;</p> <p>(e) the date the person obtained a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent by the State Department of Education;</p> <p>(f) whether the person has been convicted of a felony offense or an offense involving moral turpitude contrary to the laws of this State, another state, or the United States;</p> <p>(g) the date the person obtained an associate or baccalaureate degree, if applicable;</p> <p>(h) the date the person completed a recognized forensic science degree or certification program, or information regarding the person's enrollment in a recognized forensic science degree or certification program, if applicable; and</p> <p>(i) the number of years of experience the person has as a death investigator, certified law enforcement</p>
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			<p>officer, or licensed private investigator, if applicable.</p> <p>(C) Each person serving as coroner in the person's first term is required to complete a basic training session to be determined by the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy. This basic training session must be completed no later than the end of the calendar year following the person's election as coroner. A person appointed to fill the unexpired term in the office of coroner shall complete a basic training session to be determined by the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy within one calendar year of the date of appointment. This section must not be construed to require an individual to repeat the basic training session if the person has successfully completed the session prior to the person's election or appointment as coroner. A coroner who is unable to attend this training session when offered because of an emergency or extenuating circumstances, within one year from the date the disability or cause terminates, shall complete the standard basic training session required of coroners. A coroner who does not fulfill the obligations of this subsection is subject to suspension by the Governor until the coroner completes the training session.</p> <p>(D) A person holding the office of coroner or deputy coroner who was elected, appointed, or employed prior to January 1, 1994, and who has served continuously since that time shall attend a minimum of sixteen hours training annually as may be selected by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Training Council on or before December 31, 1995. Each year, all coroners and deputy coroners shall complete a minimum of sixteen hours training annually as selected by the council.</p>
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			<p>Certification or records of attendance or training must be maintained as directed by the council.</p> <p>(E) (1) The basis for the minimum annual requirement of in-service training is the calendar year. A coroner who satisfactorily completes the basic training session in accordance with the provisions of subsection (C) is excused from the minimum annual training requirements of subsection (D) for the calendar year in which the basic training session is completed.</p> <p>(2) The Board of Directors of the South Carolina Coroners Association, in its discretion, may grant a waiver of the requirements of the annual in-service training upon presentation of evidence by a coroner that he was unable to complete the training due to an emergency or extenuating circumstances.</p> <p>(3) A coroner who fails to complete the minimum annual in-service training required by this section may be suspended from office, without pay, by the Governor for ninety days. The Governor may continue to suspend a coroner until the coroner completes the annual minimum in-service training required in this section. The Governor shall appoint, at the time of the coroner's suspension, a qualified person to perform as acting coroner during the suspension.</p> <p>(F) A coroner in office on the effective date of this section is exempt from the provisions of this section except for the provisions of subsection (D).</p> <p>(G) (1) The Director of the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy shall appoint a Coroners Training Advisory Committee to assist in the determination of training requirements for coroners and deputy coroners and to determine those forensic science degree and</p>
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			<p>certification programs that qualify as 'recognized' pursuant to the requirements of this section. Also, the committee shall assist in determining annual training requirements as set forth in this section. The committee must consist of no fewer than five coroners and at least one physician trained in forensic pathology as recommended by the South Carolina Coroners Association. The members of the committee shall serve without compensation.</p> <p>(2) The Coroners Training Advisory Committee shall govern the qualifications of all coroners, deputy coroners, and candidates for coroner as set forth in this section. Also, the committee must certify all coroners. The committee may require a coroner or a deputy coroner to appear before it for performance review. Failure to appear before the committee or failure to follow state law relating to the performance of official duties may result in sanctioning in the form of a private or public reprimand. Also, the committee may recommend suspension to the Governor and loss of funding to the county council. A person may appeal an action of the committee pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 23, Title 1. The committee may hire an administrative assistant if it is determined necessary.</p> <p>(H) Expenses of all training authorized or required by this section must be paid by the county the coroner or deputy coroner serves, and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Training Council is authorized to set and collect fees for this training.</p> <p>HISTORY: 1994 Act No. 307, Section 1; 1996 Act No. 459, Section 30; 2001 Act No. 73, Section 1; 2010 Act No. 222, Section 1, eff March 1, 2011; 2012 Act No. 205, Section 1.A, 1.B., eff June 11, 2012; 2014 Act No. 225</p>
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			<p>(H.3958), Section 2, eff June 2, 2014; 2018 Act No. 183 (S.170), Section 3, eff May 17, 2018.</p> <p>RCW 36.24.205 Medicolegal forensic investigation training required.</p> <p>Within 12 months of being elected or appointed to the office, a coroner or medical examiner must have a certificate of completion of medicolegal forensic investigation training that complies with the standards adopted for the medicolegal training academy adopted by the criminal justice training commission in conjunction with the Washington association of coroners and medical examiners and a practicing physician selected by the commission pursuant to RCW 43.101.480. This requirement does not apply to an elected prosecutor acting as the ex officio coroner in a county. All medicolegal investigative personnel employed by any coroner's or medical examiner's office must complete medicolegal forensic investigation training as required under RCW 43.101.480. A county in which the coroner or county medical examiner has not obtained such certification within 12 months of assuming office may have its reimbursement from the death investigations account reduced as provided under RCW 68.50.104.</p> <p>Arkansas A.C.A. § 14-15-308 Training and instruction</p> <p>(a) The Division of Law Enforcement Standards and Training, in coordination with the Department of Health, shall establish a training curriculum for medicolegal death investigators, coroners, and deputy coroners in Arkansas that consists of no less than sixteen (16) hours nor more than forty (40) hours of instruction, including without limitation courses on:</p>
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			<p>(1) Medicolegal death investigation leading to certification as a medicolegal death investigator;</p> <p>(2) Scene investigation;</p> <p>(3) Body recovery;</p> <p>(4) Safety;</p> <p>(5) Statutes and rules;</p> <p>(6) Documentation and reporting;</p> <p>(7) Communication and interviewing; and</p> <p>(8) Proper completion of a death certificate and assignment of cause of death.</p> <p>(b) The division shall:</p> <p>(1) Issue a certificate of satisfactory participation and completion to a coroner, deputy coroner, or medicolegal death investigator who completes the instructional program required under subsection (a) of this section; and</p> <p>(2)</p> <p>(A) Administer the funds for the payment and reimbursement for materials, speakers, mileage, lodging, meals, the cost of the certificate, and training equipment that are in addition to compensation allowed under §§ 14-14-1203, 14-14-1204, and 14-14-1206.</p> <p>(B) The division may receive funding for coroner training through grants-in-aid, donations, and the County Coroners Continuing Education Fund.</p> <p>(c) The commission shall provide death investigation training:</p> <p>(1) Free of charge to a law enforcement officer, a state death investigator, and an employee of the State Crime Laboratory; and</p>
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			<p>(2) For a fee under a memorandum of understanding between the commission and the Arkansas Coroner's Association to coroners and deputy coroners.</p> <p>(d)</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>(A) Within one (1) year of beginning employment as a deputy coroner, a person employed as a deputy coroner after January 1, 2020, shall complete the training required under this section and obtain a certificate under subdivision (b)(1) of this section or present a certificate from the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators.</p> <p>(B) A deputy coroner under subdivision (d)(1)(A) of this section who does not comply with this subsection shall not continue employment or activity as a deputy coroner, including without limitation signing death certificates or assisting in death investigations.</p> <p>(2) Within one (1) year of the date of employment of a deputy coroner, the coroner shall provide the county judge with the deputy coroner's:</p> <p>(A) Name;</p> <p>(B) Address;</p> <p>(C) Starting date of employment; and</p> <p>(D) Copy of the certificate under subdivision (d)(1)(A) of this section.</p>
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<p>Requirements, Qualifications, Certifications, and Accreditations of a Coroner</p>		<p>-Preference of 2 years experience in Death Investigation or a related field or an AA or higher</p> <p>-IACME, NAME, and ABMDI accreditations as something to aim for → Maybe higher wages for those who get their accreditations ? (many states require their coroner's to obtain and hold IACME or NAME accreditation)</p>	<p>South Carolina § 17-5-130. Coroner qualifications; affidavits of candidates; training; exemptions; Coroners Training Advisory Committee; Expenses.</p> <p>(A) (1) A coroner in this State shall have all of the following qualifications, the person shall:</p> <p>(a) be a citizen of the United States;</p> <p>(b) be a resident of the county in which the person seeks the office of coroner for at least one year before qualifying for the election to the office;</p> <p>(c) be a registered voter;</p> <p>(d) have attained the age of twenty-one years before the date of qualifying for election to the office;</p> <p>(e) have obtained a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent by the State Department of Education; and</p> <p>(f) have not been convicted of a felony offense or an offense involving moral turpitude contrary to the laws of this State, another state, or the United States.</p> <p>(2) In addition to the requirements of subsection (A) (1), a coroner in this State shall have at least one of the following qualifications, the person shall:</p> <p>(a) have at least three years of experience in death investigation with a law enforcement agency, coroner, or medical examiner agency;</p> <p>(b) have a two-year associate degree and two years of experience in death investigation with a law</p>
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			<p>enforcement agency, coroner, or medical examiner agency;</p> <p>(c) have a four-year baccalaureate degree and one year of experience in death investigation with a law enforcement agency, coroner, or medical examiner agency;</p> <p>(d) be a law enforcement officer, as defined by Section 23-23-10(E)(1), who is certified by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Training Council with a minimum of two years of experience;</p> <p>(e) have completed a recognized forensic science degree or certification program or be enrolled in a recognized forensic science degree or certification program to be completed within one year of being elected to the office of coroner;</p> <p>(f) be a medical doctor; or</p> <p>(g) have a bachelor of science degree in nursing.</p> <p>(B)(1) A person who offers his candidacy for the office of coroner, no later than the close of filing, shall file a sworn affidavit with the county executive committee of the person's political party.</p> <p>(2) The county executive committee of a political party with whom a person has filed his affidavit must file a copy of the affidavit with the appropriate county election commission by noon on the tenth day following the deadline for filing affidavits by candidates. If the tenth day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, the affidavit must be filed by noon the following day.</p>
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			<p>(3) A person who seeks nomination by petition for the office of coroner, no later than the close of filing, shall file a sworn affidavit with the county election commission in the county of his residence.</p> <p>(4) The affidavit required by the provisions of this subsection must contain the following information:</p> <p>(a) the person's date and place of birth;</p> <p>(b) the person's citizenship;</p> <p>(c) the county the person is a resident of, and how long the person has been a resident of that county;</p> <p>(d) whether the person is a registered voter;</p> <p>(e) the date the person obtained a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent by the State Department of Education;</p> <p>(f) whether the person has been convicted of a felony offense or an offense involving moral turpitude contrary to the laws of this State, another state, or the United States;</p> <p>(g) the date the person obtained an associate or baccalaureate degree, if applicable;</p> <p>(h) the date the person completed a recognized forensic science degree or certification program, or information regarding the person's enrollment in a recognized forensic science degree or certification program, if applicable; and</p> <p>(i) the number of years of experience the person has as a death investigator, certified law enforcement</p>
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			<p>officer, or licensed private investigator, if applicable.</p> <p>(C) Each person serving as coroner in the person's first term is required to complete a basic training session to be determined by the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy. This basic training session must be completed no later than the end of the calendar year following the person's election as coroner. A person appointed to fill the unexpired term in the office of coroner shall complete a basic training session to be determined by the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy within one calendar year of the date of appointment. This section must not be construed to require an individual to repeat the basic training session if the person has successfully completed the session prior to the person's election or appointment as coroner. A coroner who is unable to attend this training session when offered because of an emergency or extenuating circumstances, within one year from the date the disability or cause terminates, shall complete the standard basic training session required of coroners. A coroner who does not fulfill the obligations of this subsection is subject to suspension by the Governor until the coroner completes the training session.</p> <p>(D) A person holding the office of coroner or deputy coroner who was elected, appointed, or employed prior to January 1, 1994, and who has served continuously since that time shall attend a minimum of sixteen hours training annually as may be selected by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Training Council on or before December 31, 1995. Each year, all coroners and deputy coroners shall complete a minimum of sixteen hours training annually as selected by the council.</p>
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			<p>Certification or records of attendance or training must be maintained as directed by the council.</p> <p>(E) (1) The basis for the minimum annual requirement of in-service training is the calendar year. A coroner who satisfactorily completes the basic training session in accordance with the provisions of subsection (C) is excused from the minimum annual training requirements of subsection (D) for the calendar year in which the basic training session is completed.</p> <p>(2) The Board of Directors of the South Carolina Coroners Association, in its discretion, may grant a waiver of the requirements of the annual in-service training upon presentation of evidence by a coroner that he was unable to complete the training due to an emergency or extenuating circumstances.</p> <p>(3) A coroner who fails to complete the minimum annual in-service training required by this section may be suspended from office, without pay, by the Governor for ninety days. The Governor may continue to suspend a coroner until the coroner completes the annual minimum in-service training required in this section. The Governor shall appoint, at the time of the coroner's suspension, a qualified person to perform as acting coroner during the suspension.</p> <p>(F) A coroner in office on the effective date of this section is exempt from the provisions of this section except for the provisions of subsection (D).</p> <p>(G) (1) The Director of the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy shall appoint a Coroners Training Advisory Committee to assist in the determination of training requirements for coroners and deputy coroners and to determine those forensic science degree and</p>
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			<p>certification programs that qualify as 'recognized' pursuant to the requirements of this section. Also, the committee shall assist in determining annual training requirements as set forth in this section. The committee must consist of no fewer than five coroners and at least one physician trained in forensic pathology as recommended by the South Carolina Coroners Association. The members of the committee shall serve without compensation.</p> <p>(2) The Coroners Training Advisory Committee shall govern the qualifications of all coroners, deputy coroners, and candidates for coroner as set forth in this section. Also, the committee must certify all coroners. The committee may require a coroner or a deputy coroner to appear before it for performance review. Failure to appear before the committee or failure to follow state law relating to the performance of official duties may result in sanctioning in the form of a private or public reprimand. Also, the committee may recommend suspension to the Governor and loss of funding to the county council. A person may appeal an action of the committee pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 23, Title 1. The committee may hire an administrative assistant if it is determined necessary.</p> <p>(H) Expenses of all training authorized or required by this section must be paid by the county the coroner or deputy coroner serves, and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Training Council is authorized to set and collect fees for this training.</p> <p>HISTORY: 1994 Act No. 307, Section 1; 1996 Act No. 459, Section 30; 2001 Act No. 73, Section 1; 2010 Act No. 222, Section 1, eff March 1, 2011; 2012 Act No. 205, Section 1.A, 1.B., eff June 11, 2012; 2014 Act No. 225</p>
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			<p>(H.3958), Section 2, eff June 2, 2014; 2018 Act No. 183 (S.170), Section 3, eff May 17, 2018.</p> <p>RCW 36.24.205 Medicolegal forensic investigation training required. Within 12 months of being elected or appointed to the office, a coroner or medical examiner must have a certificate of completion of medicolegal forensic investigation training that complies with the standards adopted for the medicolegal training academy adopted by the criminal justice training commission in conjunction with the Washington association of coroners and medical examiners and a practicing physician selected by the commission pursuant to RCW 43.101.480. This requirement does not apply to an elected prosecutor acting as the ex officio coroner in a county. All medicolegal investigative personnel employed by any coroner's or medical examiner's office must complete medicolegal forensic investigation training as required under RCW 43.101.480. A county in which the coroner or county medical examiner has not obtained such certification within 12 months of assuming office may have its reimbursement from the death investigations account reduced as provided under RCW 68.50.104.</p> <p>RCW 36.24.210 Accreditation required. Except those run by a county prosecutor, all county coroner's offices and medical examiner's offices must be accredited by either the international association of coroners and medical examiners or the national association of medical examiners no later than July 1, 2025, and maintain continued accreditation thereafter. A county that contracts for its coroner or medical examiner services with an accredited coroner or medical examiner's office in another county does not need to maintain accreditation.</p>
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<p>Funding for Full-Time Coroners & Disbursement of Funds</p>		<p>-Outline how much out of the annual budget should be put toward Death investigation → predetermined annual funding</p> <p>-Maybe base it on percentages or population density???</p> <p>-Increase in funds per year as the coroner meets National Standards quotas in investigations , autopsies, obtaining credentials, etc.</p>	<p>South Carolina § 17-5-140. Funding for full-time county coroners; disbursement of remaining funds.</p> <p>(A) From the funds appropriated for the implementation of this section, and subject to the provisions of subsection (C), the State Treasurer shall disburse an equal amount to each county treasurer on a monthly basis. These funds must supplement, and not supplant, existing funds utilized for full-time county coroners.</p> <p>(B) From the funds received pursuant to this section, each county treasurer must pay the duly elected full-time coroner at least thirty-five thousand dollars annually. If the funds are not totally expended to pay the duly elected full-time coroner, then at the discretion of the coroner he may use the funds to hire a deputy coroner, administrative personnel, or personnel with forensic training. Also, the coroner may use the funds to provide an office or office equipment.</p> <p>(C) Upon disbursing thirty-five thousand dollars to each county treasurer in a fiscal year, the State Treasurer shall credit any remaining funds pursuant to subsection (D) to the full-time coroners of each county for the performance of their duties. The remaining funds shall be disbursed as follows:</p> <p>(1) For those counties with a population of one hundred fifty thousand and above, according to the latest official United States Decennial Census, each full-time coroner shall receive an equal share of fifty-five percent of the remaining funds.</p> <p>(2) For those counties with a population of at least fifty thousand but not more than one hundred forty-nine thousand, nine hundred ninety-nine, according to the latest official United States Decennial Census, each</p>
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			<p>full-time coroner shall receive an equal share of thirty-five percent of the remaining funds.</p> <p>(3) For those counties with a population of less than fifty thousand, according to the latest official United States Decennial Census, each full-time coroner shall receive an equal share of ten percent of the remaining funds.</p> <p>(D) Implementation of this section is contingent upon the appropriation of state general funds or the availability of financial support from other sources and must be operational within one year of adequate funding becoming available.</p> <p>HISTORY: 2018 Act No. 183 (S.170), Section 2, eff May 17, 2018.</p> <p>SECTION 17-5-150. Coroners and deputy coroners considered public safety officers.</p> <p>Coroners and deputy coroners are considered public safety officers under 34 U.S.C. Section 10281, et seq., if killed in the line of duty.</p> <p>HISTORY: 2023 Act No. 66 (H.3691), Section 4, eff May 19, 2023.</p>
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<p>Lack of Protection to Coroner's liabilities within their responsibilities</p>		<p>Protect the coroner's from any liabilities by providing them immunity when acting in good faith when pertaining to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Determining the cause and manner of death - Release of information - Being a mandated reporter - 	<p>RCW 68.50.015 Immunity for determining cause and manner of death – Judicial review of determination. A county coroner or county medical examiner or persons acting in that capacity shall be immune from civil liability for determining the cause and manner of death. The accuracy of the determinations is subject to judicial review. [1987 c 263 § 1.]</p> <p>RCW 68.50.115 Coroner and medical examiner liability—Release of information. No coroner, medical examiner, or his or her designee shall be liable, nor shall a cause of action exist, for any loss or damage based upon the release of any information related to his or her findings under RCW 68.50.105 if the coroner, medical examiner, or his or her designee acted in good faith in attempting to comply with the provisions of this chapter. [2013 c 295 § 2.]</p> <p>Arkansas A.C.A. § 12-18-401 Generally A person may immediately notify the Child Abuse Hotline if he or she:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Has reasonable cause to suspect that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) Child maltreatment has occurred; or (B) A child has died as a result of child maltreatment; or (2) Observes a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances that would reasonably result in child maltreatment. <p>Arkansas A.C.A. § 12-18-402 Mandated reporters.</p>
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			<p>(a) An individual listed as a mandated reporter under subsection (b) of this section shall immediately notify the Child Abuse Hotline if he or she:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has:<ul style="list-style-type: none">(A) Been subjected to child maltreatment; or(B) Died as a result of child maltreatment; or(2) Observes a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances that would reasonably result in child maltreatment. <p>(b) The following individuals are mandated reporters under this chapter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) A child care worker or foster care worker;(2) A coroner;(3) A day care center worker;(4) A dentist;(5) A dental hygienist;(6) A domestic abuse advocate;(7) A domestic violence shelter employee;(8) A domestic violence shelter volunteer;(9) An employee of the Department of Human Services;
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			<p>(10) An employee working under contract for the Division of Youth Services of the Department of Human Services;</p> <p>(11) A foster parent;</p> <p>(12) A judge;</p> <p>(13) A law enforcement official;</p> <p>(14) A licensed nurse;</p> <p>(15) Medical personnel who may be engaged in the admission, examination, care, or treatment of persons;</p> <p>(16) A mental health professional;</p> <p>(17) An osteopath;</p> <p>(18) A peace officer;</p> <p>(19) A physician;</p> <p>(20) A prosecuting attorney;</p> <p>(21) A resident intern;</p> <p>(22) A school counselor;</p> <p>(23) A school official;</p> <p>(24) A social worker;</p> <p>(25) A surgeon;</p> <p>(26) A teacher;</p>
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			<p>(27) A court-appointed special advocate program staff member or volunteer;</p> <p>(28) A juvenile intake or probation officer;</p> <p>(29) A clergy member, which includes a minister, priest, rabbi, accredited Christian Science practitioner, or other similar functionary of a religious organization, or an individual reasonably believed to be so by the person consulting him or her, except to the extent the clergy member:</p> <p>(A) Has acquired knowledge of suspected child maltreatment through communications required to be kept confidential pursuant to the religious discipline of the relevant denomination or faith; or</p> <p>(B) Received the knowledge of the suspected child maltreatment from the alleged offender in the context of a statement of admission;</p> <p>(30) An employee of a child advocacy center or a child safety center;</p> <p>(31) An attorney ad litem in the course of his or her duties as an attorney ad litem;</p> <p>(32) (A) A sexual abuse advocate or sexual abuse volunteer who works with a victim of sexual abuse as an employee of a community-based victim service or mental health agency such as Safe Places, United Family Services, or Centers for Youth and Families.</p> <p>(B) A sexual abuse advocate or sexual abuse volunteer includes a paid or volunteer sexual abuse advocate who is based with a local law enforcement agency;</p>
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			<p>(33) A rape crisis advocate or rape crisis volunteer;</p> <p>(34) (A) A child abuse advocate or child abuse volunteer who works with a child victim of abuse or maltreatment as an employee of a community-based victim service or a mental health agency such as Safe Places, United Family Services, or Centers for Youth and Families.</p> <p>(B) A child abuse advocate or child abuse volunteer includes a paid or volunteer sexual abuse advocate who is based with a local law enforcement agency;</p> <p>(35) A victim/witness coordinator; or</p> <p>(36) A victim assistance professional or victim assistance volunteer.</p> <p>(c) (1) A privilege or contract shall not prevent a person from reporting child maltreatment when he or she is a mandated reporter and required to report under this section.</p> <p>(2) A school, Head Start program, or day care facility shall not prohibit an employee or a volunteer from directly reporting child maltreatment to the Child Abuse Hotline.</p> <p>(3) A school, Head Start program, or day care facility shall not require an employee or a volunteer to obtain permission or notify any person, including an employee or a supervisor, before reporting child maltreatment to the Child Abuse Hotline.</p> <p>Arkansas A.C.A. § 12-12-1713 Immunity for investigation participants.</p>
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			<p>(a) Any person, official, or institution acting in good faith in the making of a report, the taking of a photograph, or the removal of a maltreated person under this subchapter shall have immunity from liability and suit for damages, civil or criminal, that otherwise might result by reason of those actions.</p> <p>(b) The good faith of any person required to report a case of adult maltreatment or long-term care facility resident maltreatment shall be presumed.</p>
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<p>The Office of Coroner to have its own spot under Public Health & Safety</p> <p>Idea: In South Carolina, Coroner's are able to petition for a warrant to search the home of a child whose death occurred elsewhere. This would be helpful in aiding with child death investigation.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Coroner's Office to be its own office within Public Health -Provide laws that protect the duties performed by the Coroner within good judgment -Allow a coroner to petition a judge to obtain a search warrant for a child's home when their death did not occur there. -Additional benefits like mental health care would benefit those who work under 	<p>South Carolina § 17-5-90 Coroner shall not act under appointment of sheriff. No coroner may act as jailer or deputy sheriff or under any appointment by a sheriff, and if he accepts or acts under the appointment of the sheriff of his county, the coroner's office must be vacated and must be filled in the manner provided by law in case of vacancy from any other cause.</p> <p>South Carolina § 17-5-550. Coroner or medical examiner may petition for warrant to inspect home of child whose death occurred elsewhere. If the home or premises last inhabited by a child is not the scene of the death of a child, the coroner or medical examiner, while conducting an investigation of the death, may petition the local magistrate of the appropriate judicial circuit for a warrant to inspect the home or premises inhabited by the deceased before death. The local magistrate must issue the inspection warrant upon probable cause to believe that events in the home or premises may have contributed to the death of the child.</p> <p>South Carolina § 17-5-150. Coroners and deputy coroners considered public safety officers. Coroners and deputy coroners are considered public safety officers under 34 U.S.C. Section 10281, et seq., if killed in the line of duty.</p> <p>HISTORY: 2023 Act No. 66 (H.3691), Section 4, eff May 19, 2023</p> <p>South Carolina § 17-5-115. Deputy coroners; training and law enforcement status. (A) A person appointed by a coroner to the position of deputy coroner may, at the discretion of the coroner,</p>
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		<p>the Coroner → Reduces burnout</p>	<p>attend the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy to be trained and certified as a Class III officer.</p> <p>(B) A law enforcement officer, as defined by Section 23-23-10(E) (1), who is certified by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Training Council and appointed to serve as a deputy coroner, may, at the discretion of the coroner, retain law enforcement status as a Class III officer.</p> <p>(C) The classification is limited to the deputy coroner's official duties as provided by law and does not authorize the officer to enforce the state's general criminal laws.</p> <p>HISTORY: 2010 Act No. 222, Section 2, eff March 1, 2011.</p> <p>South Carolina § 17-7-190. Coroner may punish for contempt.</p> <p>Whenever any person shall wilfully disturb or impede the proceedings of a jury of inquest while inquiring into the cause of any death or shall offer any contempt to the person or authority of the coroner while so engaged the coroner may commit such person to the common jail of the county for a time not exceeding twenty-four hours.</p> <p>Any person who shall have been at any time duly summoned to attend and serve upon a coroner's jury who shall neglect or refuse to so attend and serve without proper excuse shall be liable to be punished for contempt and the coroner may punish such contempt by fine not exceeding twenty dollars or imprisonment not</p>
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			<p>more than twenty-four hours, or both, at his discretion.</p> <p>HISTORY: 1962 Code Section 17-109; 1952 Code Section 17-109; 1942 Code Section 1095; 1932 Code Section 1095; Cr. P. '22 Section 182; Cr. C. '12 Section 1025; Cr. C. '02 Section 727; G. S. 711; R. S. 606; 1839 (11) 78; 1874 (15) 529.</p>
<p>Handling of remains for religious or spiritual purposes. Idaho Code § 19-4301(5) states that nothing in the section about coroner death investigations “shall be construed to affect the tenets of any church or religious beliefs.” Idaho has no laws or guidelines specifying how coroners should handle requests from families</p>	<p>IOPE Report (Pg. 39)</p>	<p>Policy Consideration:</p> <p>Clarifications in Idaho Code on the rights of a family over the handling of a decedent, policymakers can increase transparency of when a family may access a decedent for religious or spiritual purposes and create a uniform policy across the</p>	<p>Wash. Rev. Code § 68.50.325 Indigenous persons-Identifcation of remains-Spiritual practices.</p> <p>(1) A county coroner having jurisdiction over human remains pursuant to RCW 68.50.010 shall, upon knowledge that the remains are of an indigenous person, cooperate with law enforcement to attempt to identify and immediately contact family members and any affected tribes, tribal organizations, and communities prior to removal or disturbance of the remains, except as deemed necessary by the county coroner and law enforcement in the interest of safety or to preserve evidence for any ongoing criminal investigation. Efforts to contact family members and affected tribes, tribal organizations, and communities must include an attempt to facilitate contact through the regional liaison for missing and murdered indigenous persons pursuant to RCW 43.43.874 within 10 days of the county coroner having jurisdiction over the remains.</p> <p>(2) If contact is successfully made, the county coroner shall afford an opportunity for a family member or a representative from any affected tribes, tribal</p>

<p>objecting to an autopsy on spiritual or religious grounds or when an objection can be overruled.</p> <p>Idaho Code does not provide direction to coroners on how to handle objections to autopsies on religious or spiritual grounds.</p>		<p>state on how to handle objections of autopsies for religious or spiritual purposes.</p>	<p>organizations, or communities to visit the remains for the purpose of conducting any spiritual practices or ceremonies to honor or recognize the indigenous person's passing. A family member or representative's activities may not interfere with or jeopardize the integrity of any ongoing criminal investigation. The county coroner and the lead investigator from the law enforcement agency of jurisdiction must provide the family member or representative with a list containing any conduct the family member or representative is prohibited from doing when interacting with the remains, including an explanation of why the conduct is prohibited. The family member or representative may not conduct any practices or ceremonies until the county coroner and the lead investigator provide their authorization.</p> <p>(3) For the purposes of this section, "affected tribes" has the same meaning as in RCW 68.50.645.</p> <p>(4) Nothing in this section may be construed to contradict the sovereignty or rights of any federally recognized Indian tribe whose traditional lands and territories included parts of Washington.</p> <p>Minn. Ann. Stat. § 390.11 SUBD. 2B</p> <p>Subd. 2b.Religious objections to autopsy. (a) For purposes of this subdivision:</p> <p>(1) "compelling state interest" means that:</p> <p>(i) the autopsy is necessary to investigation of a suspicious death or suspected crime;</p>
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			<p>(ii) the autopsy is necessary to prevent a potential public health threat and essential to ascertain the cause or manner of death;</p> <p>(iii) the autopsy is necessary to ascertain the cause or manner of death following an unexpected death, regardless of the decedent's underlying disease, in order to protect the public's health;</p> <p>(iv) the autopsy is necessary to obtain proper toxicologic or other specimens that may represent evidence of a crime and may deteriorate over time;</p> <p>(v) the death is an unexpected and unexplained death of a child;</p> <p>(vi) the death is associated with police action;</p> <p>(vii) the death is unnatural, unattended, or unexpected and occurred within a facility licensed by the Department of Corrections, a secure treatment facility, as defined in section 246.71, subdivision 5, or within a facility as defined in section 626.5572, subdivision 6, but excluding deaths that occurred in the home of the decedent or a caregiver of the decedent;</p> <p>(viii) the death is due to acute workplace injury;</p> <p>(ix) the death is caused by apparent electrocution;</p> <p>(x) the death is caused by unwitnessed or suspected drowning;</p> <p>(xi) the body is unidentified and the autopsy may aid in identification;</p>
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			<p>(xii) the body is skeletonized but not subject to the provisions of section 307.08;</p> <p>(xiii) the death appears to be caused by fire or explosion; or</p> <p>(xiv) the need for an autopsy is otherwise established under paragraph (g);</p> <p>(2) "religious beliefs" means the recognized tenets, understandings, customs, or rites of any culture or recognized religion as they apply to activities described in section 149A.01, subdivision 3, paragraph (b);</p> <p>(3) "religious grounds" means that performance of an autopsy is contrary to the religious beliefs of the decedent or the decedent included a religious objection to an autopsy in the decedent's health care directive; and</p> <p>(4) "representative of the decedent" or "representative" means the person or persons with the right to control and duty of disposition of the body of the decedent under section 149A.80, subdivision 2.</p> <p>(b) The coroner or medical examiner shall, as soon as possible, but no more than 24 hours after the discovery of the decedent's body, exercise good faith efforts to give verbal or written notice to the representative of the decedent of the intended autopsy. This verbal or written notice must include providing written materials explaining the death investigation process or providing the representative the office's website address where this information is located. These written materials and website must include</p>
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			<p>information regarding Minnesota's law concerning religious objections to autopsies. A record summarizing verbal communication with a representative must be maintained indefinitely in the coroner or medical examiner's records. If, despite a good faith effort, a representative of the decedent cannot be found within 24 hours of the discovery of the decedent's body, the autopsy may proceed without further delay.</p> <p>(c) If the representative of the decedent does not object to the autopsy on religious grounds, the autopsy may be performed without delay.</p> <p>(d) If the representative of the decedent objects to the autopsy on religious grounds, an autopsy must not be performed unless the coroner or medical examiner determines that there is a compelling state interest to perform the autopsy. The coroner or medical examiner may require a representative of the decedent or a person representing a class of representatives to present an affidavit stating the person's relationship to the decedent, any religious affiliation of the decedent, that the decedent had a religious objection to an autopsy and the basis for that belief, and that the person will assume responsibility for the lawful disposition of the body of the deceased.</p> <p>(e) If the coroner or medical examiner determines that a compelling state interest to perform an autopsy exists under paragraph (a), clause (1), items (i) to (xiii), the autopsy may proceed without further delay.</p> <p>(f) The district court may waive the waiting period under paragraph (b) upon ex parte motion if it</p>
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			<p>determines that the delay may prejudice the accuracy of the autopsy or threaten public health.</p> <p>(g) If the coroner or medical examiner determines that there is a compelling state interest to perform an autopsy under circumstances not described in paragraph (a), clause (1), items (i) to (xiii), and the representative of the decedent objects based on religious grounds and submits written information to the coroner or medical examiner showing reason to believe that the autopsy is contrary to the religious beliefs of the decedent, the coroner or medical examiner may bring an action in district court for an order authorizing the autopsy. The action must be brought by notice of an order to show cause served on the representative of the decedent or, if the representative is not available, on another party if directed by the court. The proceeding must be determined summarily upon the petition and the oral or written evidence offered by the parties. The court shall grant the relief sought in the petition if it finds that the petitioner demonstrates by a preponderance of the evidence that the autopsy is necessary and that need outweighs the state's interest in observing the decedent's religious beliefs. If the petition is denied and no stay is granted by the court, the body must immediately be released in accordance with chapter 149A.</p> <p>(h) Autopsies performed after a religious objection under this subdivision must be the least intrusive procedure consistent with the state's compelling interest in performing the autopsy. This subdivision</p>
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			<p>does not prohibit a coroner or medical examiner from obtaining voluntary permission from a representative of the decedent to conduct an examination and inquiry involving less intrusive means than an autopsy.</p> <p>(i) A coroner or medical examiner is not liable for the failure to perform an autopsy if an objection to the autopsy on religious grounds has been made under this subdivision.</p> <p>(j) In a court proceeding related to this subdivision, the petitioner may file data that are investigative data under section 13.83, subdivision 4, under seal with the court. The data must be examined by the court in camera. The investigative data filed with the court remain confidential consistent with the provisions of section 13.83, subdivision 4, except where disclosure is ordered as provided by section 13.83, subdivision 7.</p> <p>(k) Actions or determinations by the coroner or medical examiner under this subdivision are exempt from chapter 14.</p> <p>Idaho Code § 19-4301</p> <p>COUNTY CORONER TO INVESTIGATE DEATHS. (1) When a county coroner is informed that a person has died, the county coroner shall investigate that death if:</p> <p>(a) The death occurred as a result of violence, whether apparently by homicide, suicide or by accident;</p>
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			<p>(b) The death occurred under suspicious or unknown circumstances; or</p> <p>(c) The death is of a stillborn child or any child if there is a reasonable articulable suspicion to believe that the death occurred without a known medical disease to account for the stillbirth or child's death.</p> <p>(2) If a death occurs that is not attended by a physician and the cause of death cannot be certified by a physician, the coroner must refer the investigation of the death to the sheriff of the county or the chief of police of the city in which the incident causing the death occurred or, if such county or city is unknown, to the sheriff or chief of police of the county or city where the body was found. The investigation shall be the responsibility of the sheriff or chief of police. Upon completion of the investigation, a written report shall be provided to the coroner of the county in which the death occurred or, if such county is unknown, to the coroner of the county where the body was found.</p> <p>(3) A coroner in the county where the incident causing the death occurred or, if such county is unknown, the coroner in the county where the body was found, may conduct an inquest if there are reasonable grounds to believe as a result of the investigation that the death occurred as provided in subsection (1) of this section.</p>
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			<p>(4) If an inquest is to be conducted, the coroner shall summon six (6) persons qualified by law to serve as jurors for the inquest.</p> <p>(5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the tenets of any church or religious belief.</p> <p>History:</p> <p>[19-4301, added 2005, ch. 80, sec. 2, p. 291.]</p> <p>James v. Kootenai County, 631 F. Supp. 3d 919, (D. Idaho 2022)</p>
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<p>Idaho Code requires coroners to conduct continuing education but there is no enforcement for coroners who do not comply.</p> <p>Idaho Code § 34-622(5)</p> <p>Idaho Code § 39-252(2)</p> <p>Idaho Code § 31-2810</p> <p>-Since 2010, coroners in Idaho have been required to complete "coroner's school" within a year of taking office, as well as participate in 24 hours of continuing education for every two years of</p>	<p>IOPE Report (Pg. 40)</p>	<p>Idaho Code was amended in 2010 to assess a one dollar charge on purchases of death certificates that goes toward funding coroner education.⁵¹ This money goes to ISACC, who then distribute the money to coroners seeking education. As of the publication of this report, the ISACC reported it had \$188,000 in its coroner training fund. The Department of Health and Welfare's</p>	<p>We need to find other state legislation that talks about enforcement of continuing education!!!</p> <p>Idaho Code § 34-622(5)</p> <p>All newly elected or appointed county coroners shall attend a coroner's school within one (1) year of taking office. Such school shall be sponsored or endorsed by the Idaho state association of county coroners.</p> <p>Idaho Code § 31-2810</p> <p>CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS. After January 1, 2010, each county coroner shall complete twenty-four (24) hours of continuing education on a biennial calendar basis. The Idaho state association of county coroners shall either sponsor or provide courses pursuant to this section and monitor this requirement.</p> <p>Idaho Code § 39-252(2)</p> <p>For each certified copy of a death certificate there shall be charged an additional fee of one dollar (\$1.00) to be deposited in the state treasurer's local government investment pool, a fund hereby created for the Idaho state association of county coroners. Such moneys shall be used for the training of newly elected coroners and for the continuing education of county coroners and their deputies.</p>
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<p>holding office. We found that participation in continuing education has been dropping, potentially because the education requirement is not enforced and there are no consequences for not completing the education requirement.</p> <p>-The average hours of reported continuing education completed by coroners has been dropping since 2015, and it fell below the required 24 hours in two years for 2021-2022.</p>		<p>Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics was in the process of distributing an additional \$163,000 to the association.</p> <p>***Increase to \$2.00 per Death Certificate for Coroner education funds.</p>	
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<p>Other State Education Requirements</p> <p>Outside of county prosecutors, who are required to be certified with the Idaho State Bar, county elected officials in Idaho are not required to complete any education or training to hold office.</p>	<p>IOPE pg. 42-43</p>	<p>Reimbursement Program!!!</p> <p>Outside of county prosecutors, who are required to be certified with the Idaho State Bar, county elected officials in Idaho are not required to complete any education or training to hold office. To encourage continuing education and training of coroners in Washington, county coroner offices that are accredited by IACME or NAME receive more</p>	<p>Nev. Rev. Stat. § 244.163.1</p> <p>1. The boards of county commissioners in their respective counties may create by ordinance the office of the county coroner, prescribe the qualifications and duties of the county coroner and make appointments to the office.</p> <p>Colo. Rev. Stat. § 30-10-601.6,</p> <p>(1) There is hereby created in the department of public health and environment the Colorado coroners standards and training board, referred to in this part 6 as the "C.C.S.T. board".(2) The C.C.S.T. board is a type 2 entity, as defined in section 24-1-105, and exercises its powers and performs its duties and functions under the department of public health and environment.(3) (a) The C.C.S.T. board shall consist of eight members. The chairperson and the vice-chairperson of the C.C.S.T. board shall be elected annually by the members of the C.C.S.T. board with the requirement that the chairperson be either a coroner or a forensic pathologist.(b) The members of the C.C.S.T. board shall be appointed by the governor as follows:(I) A coroner of a county with a population of fifty thousand or more;(II) A coroner of a county with a population of less than fifty thousand but more than fifteen thousand;(III) A coroner of a county with a population of fifteen thousand or less;(IV) A county commissioner of a county with a population of fifty thousand or more;(V) A county commissioner of a county with a population of less than fifty thousand;(VI) A</p>
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		<p>reimbursement from the state for their autopsy costs than offices without an accreditation.</p>	<p>pathologist who is actively engaged in performing post mortem examinations for a county in this state and who is a member of the Colorado medical society; (VII) A chief of police from a municipality in this state or a county sheriff; and (VIII) A district attorney from a judicial district in this state. (c) The governor shall appoint each member of the C.C.S.T. board for a term of three years; except that the terms shall be staggered so that no more than three members' terms expire in the same year. (d) If a county coroner, county commissioner, county sheriff, chief of police, or district attorney leaves that office, that person's term on the C.C.S.T. board shall expire. The governor shall appoint a suitable person to fill the vacancy on the C.C.S.T. board for the unexpired term. (4) The members of the C.C.S.T. board shall receive no compensation for their services but may be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties. (5) (a) The C.C.S.T. board may accept and expend gifts, grants, and donations to pay the direct expenses of the C.C.S.T. board. The C.C.S.T. board shall transmit all gifts, grants, and donations to the state treasurer, who shall credit the money to the coroner training fund created in section 30-10-601.8 (5). Any unencumbered state money remaining in the fund upon the repeal of this section shall be transferred to the general fund. (b) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2011, (HB 11-1303), ch. 1173, p. 1173, § 85, effective August 10, 2011.) (6) The department of public health and environment staff is not required to provide any financial support or perform any administrative duties related to the operation of the C.C.S.T. board. (7) The</p>
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			<p>attorney general shall be the legal advisor to the C.C.S.T. board. A deputy or assistant attorney general chosen by the attorney general or the attorney general's designee shall attend each meeting of the C.C.S.T. board to provide legal counsel to the C.C.S.T. board as requested by the board.</p> <p>Burns Ind. Code Ann. § 4-23-6.5-7,</p> <p>IC 36-2-14-22.3 Training courses for coroners and deputy coroners.</p> <p>Sec. 22.3. (a) The coroners training board established by IC 4-23-6.5-3, in consultation with the Indiana law enforcement academy, shall create and offer a training course for coroners and deputy coroners. The training course must include: (1) at least forty (40) hours of instruction; and (2) instruction regarding: (A) death investigation; (B) crime scenes; and (C) preservation of evidence at a crime scene for police and crime lab technicians. (b) The coroners training board, in consultation with the Indiana law enforcement academy, shall create and offer an annual training course for coroners and deputy coroners. The annual training course must: (1) include at least eight (8) hours of instruction; and (2) cover recent developments in: (A) death investigation; (B) crime scenes; and (C) preservation of evidence at a crime scene for police and crime lab technicians. (c) In creating the courses under subsections (a) and (b), the coroners training board shall consult with a pathologist certified by the American Board of Pathology regarding medical issues that are a part of the training courses. (d) All</p>
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			<p>training in the courses offered under subsections (a) and (b) that involves medical issues must be approved by a pathologist certified by the American Board of Pathology. (e) All training in the courses offered under subsections (a) and (b) that involves crime scenes and evidence preservation must be approved by a law enforcement officer. (f) The coroners training board shall issue a coroner or deputy coroner a certificate upon successful completion of the courses described in subsections (a) and (b).</p> <p>Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 7-4-211 Board of coroner standards.</p> <p>(a) There is created a board of coroner standards. The board shall consist of one (1) chairman and six (6) members appointed by and who shall serve at the pleasure of the governor as follows: (i) One (1) shall be a physician with a specialty in pathology who is licensed to practice in this state; (ii) Three (3) shall be duly elected coroners in this state; (iii) One (1) shall be a funeral director in this state; (iv) One (1) shall be a duly elected district attorney in this state; (v) One (1) shall be a peace officer certified under W.S. 9-1-701 through 9-1-711. (b) The members of the board shall be appointed to terms of four (4) years which are concurrent with the terms of the office of coroner. Board members not otherwise compensated for attending board meetings shall receive travel expenses and per diem in the same manner and amount as state employees, and any other reasonable expenses upon board approval. Board members not otherwise compensated shall have their expenses paid from the general fund by</p>
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			<p>appropriation to the office of the attorney general.</p> <p>(c) The board shall: (i) Meet at least biannually and at the call of the chairman or of a majority of the membership; (ii) Promulgate standards dealing with the investigation of coroner's cases; (iii) Promulgate educational and training requirements for coroner basic and continuing education requirements and review those requirements annually; (iv) Cooperate with the peace officer standards and training commission in developing basic and continuing education courses for coroners; (v) Promulgate employment standards for deputy coroners and coroner employees. The standards may include the requirement that deputy coroners and coroner employees provide to the employing coroner fingerprints and other information necessary for a state and national criminal history record background check and release of information as provided in W.S. 7-19-106(k)(ii) and federal P.L. 92-544 and consent to the release of any criminal history information to the employing coroner; (vi) Promulgate rules and regulations to provide for the review of complaints if a coroner or deputy coroner has failed to comply with any provision of W.S. 7-4-103 or this subsection or has failed to meet any educational or training requirement provided under this section. The board shall make recommendations to the peace officer standards and training commission regarding revocation of certifications based on these investigations; (vii) Provide for a system to offer educational programs to assist coroners and deputy coroners in meeting educational and training requirements provided under this section. (d) The peace officer standards and training commission shall</p>
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			<p>cooperate with the board of coroner standards in establishing course requirements and continuing education requirements required by law. (e) The board shall contact the district attorney for the county or the attorney general to initiate an action and may serve as complaining party in an action under W.S. 7-4-103(b) or 18-3-902 to remove any coroner who is not in compliance with W.S. 7-4-103. (f) In addition to any action under subsection (e) of this section, the board shall notify the county commissioners for the county of any coroner or deputy coroner who has had his certification revoked.</p> <p>Colo. Rev. Stat. § 30-10-601.9, Enforcement.</p> <p>(1) If a coroner fails to comply with the requirements of section 30-10-601.8, the C.C.S.T. board shall notify the board of county commissioners that the coroner is not in compliance with the training requirements of section 30-10-601.8 and that state law requires the county commissioners to suspend the coroner's salary. Upon receipt of such notice, the board of county commissioners shall suspend the coroner's salary.(2) If the C.C.S.T. board determines that a coroner whose salary has been suspended in accordance with subsection (1) of this section is in compliance with the training requirements of section 30-10-601.8, the C.C.S.T. board shall notify the board of county commissioners that the coroner is in compliance with the training requirements and that state law requires the board of county commissioners to reinstate the coroner's salary with back pay. Upon receipt of such notice, the board of</p>
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			<p>county commissioners shall reinstate the coroner's salary with back pay.</p> <p>Code of Ala. § 11-5-31(g) ,</p> <p>(g) A coroner or his or her designated assistant who fails to complete the minimum annual inservice training required by this article may be suspended from office, without pay, by the Governor for not more than 90 days. At the end of the suspension period, the Governor may continue the suspension of the coroner and his or her designated assistants until he or she completes the annual minimum inservice training.</p> <p>Mont. Code Ann. § 7-4-2905(2) (b) , Coroner education and continuing education.</p> <p>(b) The council shall approve a 16-hour continuing coroner education course. Unless there are exigent circumstances, failure of any coroner or deputy coroner to satisfactorily complete the 16-hour continuing coroner education course, or an equivalent course approved by the council, at least once every 2 years results in forfeiture of office. The council may adopt rules providing a procedure to extend the 2-year period because of exigent circumstances.</p> <p>Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 7-4-103(b) , Certification requirements; penalty, expenses.</p> <p>(a) After January 5, 1987, no person shall continue in office as county coroner or deputy coroner unless he has been certified under W.S. 9-1-634 as having completed:</p>
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			<p>(i) Not later than one (1) year after assuming office, a basic coroner course;</p> <p>(ii) Continuing education requirements promulgated by the board of coroner standards pursuant to W.S. 7-4-211(c) (iii).</p> <p>(b) Any person who knowingly fails to comply with subsection (a) of this section and continues in office is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for each day of noncompliance.</p> <p>(c) Each coroner or deputy coroner attending approved classes to receive the certification required by subsection (a) of this section shall receive his present salary or per diem in the same manner and amount as state employees, whichever is greater, and shall be reimbursed for his actual travel and other necessary expenses reasonably incurred in obtaining the required training. The expenses shall be paid by the county in which the coroner or deputy coroner is serving.</p> <p>(d) After July 1, 2001, no person shall serve as deputy coroner or as an employee of a county coroner who does not meet the employment standards adopted by the board of coroner standards pursuant to W.S. 7-4-211(c) (v).</p> <p>Wash. Rev. Code § 68.50.104, Cost of Autopsy</p> <p>(1) The cost of autopsy shall be borne by the county in which the autopsy is performed, except when requested by the department of labor and</p>
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			<p>industries, in which case, the department shall bear the cost of such autopsy.</p> <p>(2) (a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, when the county bears the cost of an autopsy, it shall be reimbursed from the death investigations account, established by RCW 43.79.445, as follows:</p> <p>(i) Up to 40 percent of the cost of contracting for the services of a pathologist to perform an autopsy;</p> <p>(ii) Up to 30 percent of the salary of pathologists who are primarily engaged in performing autopsies and are (A) county coroners or county medical examiners, or (B) employees of a county coroner or county medical examiner;</p> <p>(iii) 100 percent of the cost of autopsies conducted under RCW 70.54.450; and</p> <p>(iv) Up to 40 percent of the cost of transportation of remains to and from facilities accredited pursuant to RCW 36.24.210 for the purpose of autopsy services.</p> <p>(b) When the county bears the cost of an autopsy of a child under the age of three whose death was sudden and unexplained, the county shall be reimbursed for the expenses of the autopsy when the</p>
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			<p>death scene investigation and the autopsy have been conducted under RCW 43.103.100 (4) and (5), and the autopsy has been done at a facility designed for the performance of autopsies.</p> <p>(3) Payments from the account shall be made pursuant to biennial appropriation: PROVIDED, That no county may reduce funds appropriated for this purpose below 1983 budgeted levels.</p> <p>(4) Where the county coroner's office or county medical examiner's office is not accredited pursuant to RCW 36.24.210, or a coroner, medical examiner, or other medicolegal investigative employee is not certified as required by RCW 36.24.205 and 43.101.480, the state treasurer's office shall withhold 25 percent of autopsy reimbursement funds until accreditation under RCW 36.24.210 or compliance with RCW 36.24.205 and 43.101.480 is achieved.</p>
<p>First Responders</p> <p>Both IACME and NAME recommend that coroners be recognized as first responders. However, only Indiana and Washington specify</p>	<p>IOPE Report (Pg. 44)</p>	<p>Classifying coroners and their staff as first responders would provide two major benefits to the office: access to</p>	<p>Burns Ind. Code Ann. § 10-10.5-2-1(8), The state of Indiana designates the following individuals to be Indiana first responders:</p> <p>(1) A law enforcement officer.</p> <p>(2) A firefighter, including a volunteer firefighter.</p>

<p>that coroners are first responders.</p>		<p>workers' compensation for mental-mental injuries and access to state-provided naloxone.</p>	<p>(3) A corrections officer.</p> <p>(4) A public safety telecommunicator.</p> <p>(5) An emergency medical technician, emergency medical responder, or paramedic.</p> <p>(6) An individual performing emergency management services subject to the order or control of, or under a request of, the state or local government, including a volunteer health practitioner registered under IC 10-14-3.5.</p> <p>(7) Any individual serving in an employee or volunteer capacity for a public safety agency, whose duties include rapid emergency response.</p> <p>(8) A county coroner or deputy county coroner.</p> <p>Wash. Rev. Code § 70.54.430(6)(b), First responders-Emergency response service-Contact information.</p> <p>(b) "First responder" means firefighters, law enforcement officers, coroners and medical examiners, and emergency medical personnel, as licensed or certificated by this state.</p> <p>I. C. § 39-3413. Search and Notification</p> <p>(1) For purposes of this section, "first responder" means a law enforcement officer, firefighter,</p>
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emergency medical services provider, coroner or other emergency rescuer.

IACME POSITION STATEMENT CORONERS AND MEDICOLEGAL DEATH INVESTIGATORS (MDI) SHOULD BE DESIGNATED FIRST RESPONDERS

Coroners and Medicolegal Death Investigators (MDI) are exposed to numerous risk factors in the line of their public service duties. These factors increase their risk for exposure to biohazard contaminants, infectious diseases and potential violence, all of which increase the threat to their physical safety. The medicolegal death investigation community has a high level of exposure and risk to life threatening factors when responding to death scenes to include; handling and transporting bodies/human remains; when in close interactions with family members and/or bystanders when conducting forensic interviews; and/or when notifying them of a death. There is additional risk of exposure to contaminants and infectious disease during the performance of forensic scene investigations, post mortem examinations, forensic autopsies and when obtaining/handling and testing biological specimens. First responders are at a great risk of exposure when interacting with patients, decedents and the general public. Coroners and MDIs are on the front lines alongside their counterparts from emergency medical services, law enforcement, fire department personnel and health care providers. In many jurisdictions, especially those in rural areas, the Coroner or MDI may be the only individual who comes into contact with

			<p>family and bystanders to be able to determine other potentially ill or exposed persons. Those currently designated as first responders, whether at the local, state or federal level, qualify for additional benefits such as hazardous duty pay, enhanced paid time off or sick leave, and enhanced line-of duty death benefits. Coroners and MDIs should be eligible for these additional benefits and therefore should be designated First Responders. The official position of the International Association of Coroners & Medical Examiners is that all Coroners and Medicolegal Death Investigators receive First Responder designation at the local, state and federal levels to ensure these public servants are eligible for benefits associated with First Responder classification.</p> <p>Respectfully, The IACME Board of Directors</p>
<p>Naloxone</p> <p>In 2023, the Idaho Legislature passed House Bill 350, which made free naloxone kits provided by the state only available to first responders. As coroners are not classified as first responders,</p>	<p>IOPE Report (Pg. 47)</p>	<p>The Legislature should consider granting coroners and their staff access to free naloxone kits provided by the state.</p> <p>In 2023, South Carolina</p>	<p>S.C. Code Ann. § 17-5-135, Opioid antidote administration by coroners.</p> <p>A coroner, deputy coroner, or coroner's designee may possess and administer an opioid antidote pursuant to the requirements of the South Carolina Overdose Prevention Act. The coroner, deputy coroner, or coroner's designee must comply with all of the requirements of Section 44-130-90 and is entitled to immunity from civil or criminal liability or professional disciplinary action when administering an opioid antidote to a person he believes in good faith is experiencing an opioid overdose.</p>

<p>they are not able to receive naloxone from the state. Naloxone is a medicine that can reverse an opioid overdose.</p>		<p>amended state law to recognize coroners as first responders in certain circumstances to allow them to possess and administer opioid antidotes such as naloxone.</p>	<p>RCW § 69.41.095, Opioid overdose reversal medication—Standing order permitted.</p> <p>(1) (a) A practitioner may prescribe, dispense, distribute, and deliver an opioid overdose reversal medication: (i) Directly to a person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose; or (ii) by prescription, collaborative drug therapy agreement, standing order, or protocol to a first responder, family member, or other person or entity in a position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose. Any such prescription, standing order, or protocol is issued for a legitimate medical purpose in the usual course of professional practice.</p> <p>(b) At the time of prescribing, dispensing, distributing, or delivering the opioid overdose reversal medication, the practitioner shall inform the recipient that as soon as possible after administration of the opioid overdose reversal medication, the person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose should be transported to a hospital or a first responder should be summoned.</p> <p>(2) A pharmacist may dispense an opioid overdose reversal medication pursuant to a prescription, collaborative drug therapy agreement, standing order, or protocol issued in accordance with subsection (1) (a) of this section and may administer an opioid overdose reversal medication to a person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose. At the time of dispensing</p>
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			<p>an opioid overdose reversal medication, a pharmacist shall provide written instructions on the proper response to an opioid-related overdose, including instructions for seeking immediate medical attention. The instructions to seek immediate medical attention must be conspicuously displayed.</p> <p>(3) Any person or entity may lawfully possess, store, deliver, distribute, or administer an opioid overdose reversal medication pursuant to a prescription, collaborative drug therapy agreement, standing order, or protocol issued by a practitioner in accordance with subsection (1) of this section.</p> <p>(4) The following individuals, if acting in good faith and with reasonable care, are not subject to criminal or civil liability or disciplinary action under chapter 18.130 RCW for any actions authorized by this section or the outcomes of any actions authorized by this section:</p> <p>(a) A practitioner who prescribes, dispenses, distributes, or delivers an opioid overdose reversal medication pursuant to subsection (1) of this section;</p> <p>(b) A pharmacist who dispenses an opioid overdose reversal medication pursuant to subsection (2) or (5) (a) of this section;</p> <p>(c) A person who possesses, stores, distributes, or administers an opioid overdose reversal medication pursuant to subsection (3) of this section.</p>
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			<p>(5) The secretary or the secretary's designee may issue a standing order prescribing opioid overdose reversal medications to any person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose or any person or entity in a position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose. The standing order may be limited to specific areas in the state or issued statewide.</p> <p>(a) A pharmacist shall dispense an opioid overdose reversal medication pursuant to a standing order issued in accordance with this subsection, consistent with the pharmacist's responsibilities to dispense prescribed legend drugs, and may administer an opioid overdose reversal medication to a person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose. At the time of dispensing an opioid overdose reversal medication, a pharmacist shall provide written instructions on the proper response to an opioid-related overdose, including instructions for seeking immediate medical attention. The instructions to seek immediate medical attention must be conspicuously displayed.</p> <p>(b) Any person or entity may lawfully possess, store, deliver, distribute, or administer an opioid overdose reversal medication pursuant to a standing order issued in accordance with this subsection (5). The department, in coordination with the appropriate entity or entities, shall ensure availability of a training module that provides training regarding the identification of a person suffering from an opioid-related overdose and the use of opioid overdose</p>
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			<p>reversal medications. The training must be available electronically and in a variety of media from the department.</p> <p>(c) This subsection (5) does not create a private cause of action. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, neither the state nor the secretary nor the secretary's designee has any civil liability for issuing standing orders or for any other actions taken pursuant to this chapter or for the outcomes of issuing standing orders or any other actions taken pursuant to this chapter. Neither the secretary nor the secretary's designee is subject to any criminal liability or professional disciplinary action for issuing standing orders or for any other actions taken pursuant to this chapter.</p> <p>(d) For purposes of this subsection (5), "standing order" means an order prescribing medication by the secretary or the secretary's designee. Such standing order can only be issued by a practitioner as defined in this chapter.</p> <p>(6) The labeling requirements of RCW 69.41.050 and 18.64.246 do not apply to opioid overdose reversal medications dispensed, distributed, or delivered pursuant to a prescription, collaborative drug therapy agreement, standing order, or protocol issued in accordance with this section. The individual or entity that dispenses, distributes, or delivers an opioid overdose reversal medication as authorized by this section shall ensure that directions for use are provided.</p>
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			<p>(7) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:</p> <p>(a) "First responder" means: (i) A career or volunteer firefighter, law enforcement officer, paramedic as defined in RCW 18.71.200, or first responder or emergency medical technician as defined in RCW 18.73.030; and (ii) an entity that employs or supervises an individual listed in (a)(i) of this subsection, including a volunteer fire department.</p> <p>(b) "Opioid overdose reversal medication" means any drug used to reverse an opioid overdose that binds to opioid receptors and blocks or inhibits the effects of opioids acting on those receptors. It does not include intentional administration via the intravenous route.</p> <p>(c) "Opioid-related overdose" means a condition including, but not limited to, decreased level of consciousness, nonresponsiveness, respiratory depression, coma, or death that: (i) Results from the consumption or use of an opioid or another substance with which an opioid was combined; or (ii) a lay person would reasonably believe to be an opioid-related overdose requiring medical assistance.</p> <p>(d) "Practitioner" means a health care practitioner who is authorized under RCW 69.41.030 to prescribe legend drugs.</p>
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			(e) "Standing order" or "protocol" means written or electronically recorded instructions, prepared by a prescriber, for distribution and administration of a drug by designated and trained staff or volunteers of an organization or entity, as well as other actions and interventions to be used upon the occurrence of clearly defined clinical events in order to improve patients' timely access to treatment.
Coroner Equipment and offices (FINISH)	IOPE Pg. 54-55		
Health Districts & Autopsies	IOPE Report pg. 67-69	(Exam Room & Storage split between districts, so the counties or state doesn't spend as much money building new facilities. County Coroners can share storage and exam rooms.) -This could lead to IACME	**I don't know if this has any legislation from other states, but it's a really good idea and will help all of the county coroners... RCW 36.16.030 Elective County Officers enumerated. (Effective January 1, 2025) Except as provided elsewhere in this section, in every county there shall be elected from among the qualified voters of the county a county assessor, a county auditor, a county clerk, a county coroner, three county commissioners, a county prosecuting attorney, a county sheriff, and a county treasurer, except that in each county with a population of less than forty thousand the county legislative authority may determine that no coroner shall be elected and instead appoint a coroner. In a county with a population of two hundred fifty thousand or more, the county legislative authority may replace the office of coroner with a medical examiner system and appoint a medical examiner as specified in

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