

Pennsylvania Law requires the Coroner to investigate many types of deaths in their County for the purpose of determining the cause and manner of death and whether or not the death may have resulted from a criminal action or criminal neglect by someone other than the decedent.

In cases where the Coroner assumes jurisdiction after receiving a report of death, investigation may include any or all of the following: a death scene response, bringing the decedent in for autopsy, toxicology or other testing, interviews and review of medical records.

Next Steps for Next of Kin:

Identify a funeral home or cremation service of your choosing and notify our office at 267-880-5040.

Contact the funeral home and inform them that your loved one is being transported to the Coroner's office.

The funeral home will then contact the Coroner's Office to have your loved one taken into their care for final arrangements.



Bucks County Coroner's Office
850 Eagle Boulevard
Warminster, PA 18974
Office Hours:
Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Phone: 267-880-5040
Fax: 267-880-5656

CORONER

Meredith J. Buck, RN, JD

Mission Statement

The Bucks County Coroner's office is an independent agency serving the citizens and honoring the deceased of the county by investigating the facts and circumstances of death which have occurred within Bucks County. We determine the cause and manner of death, the identity of the decedent and provide notification to the legal next of kin, while exhibiting the highest degree of compassion, professionalism and integrity.

SURVIVOR'S GUIDE



The Bucks County Coroner's Office extends our deepest condolences during this difficult time. The information provided in this brochure is intended to provide the next of kin with helpful solutions, guidance and answers to frequently asked questions during your time of loss.

Investigator's Name/Attach Card:

Death Certificates

Once the determination is made regarding the cause and manner of death, a death certificate is generated and provided to the responsible funeral home. The original death certificate is filed with the Pennsylvania Division of Vital Records by the Funeral Director. Certified copies of the death certificate can be obtained from the Funeral Director or the Division of Vital Records.

Pennsylvania Department of Health Division of
Vital Records
Death Certificate Processing Unit
PO Box 1528
New Castle, PA 16103
724-656-3100 or toll free at 844-228-3516
www.vitalchek.com

Cleaning Services

The following companies specialize in biohazard cleanup. The Bucks County Coroner's Office does NOT endorse or recommend any one company.

Aftermath Inc.	866-942-6533
Bio-Tec	888-246-9111
Crime Scene Clean-Up	800-295-5460
Emergi-Clean	215-742-4221
Paul Davis Restoration	267-202-6470
Steri-Clean	888-577-7206
Trauma Response	484-461-0138

Frequently Asked Questions

When will I know the cause of death?

The cause and manner of death information can be provided to next of kin when the Coroner completes the death certificate after the investigation is complete and all reports are final.

What does a "pending" case mean?

Pending means the cause and manner of death have not been finalized and investigation or testing is ongoing. A death certificate with "pending" as a cause of death allows funeral arrangements to move forward. Final death certificates will be completed and sent to the funeral home after investigation is complete, usually within 8-12 weeks.

How can I get a copy of the autopsy, coroner or toxicology report?

Next of kin can complete a request form on the Bucks County website:

<https://buckscounty.gov/337/Coroner>

Click on personal application under Application for Records. Complete, print and mail or fax the form to the Coroner's Office.

Who is considered the next of kin?

The legal next of kin is the closest living relative in the following order: spouse, adult child, parent, adult brother or sister.

Will an autopsy be performed?

Not every person brought to the Office of the Coroner is autopsied. When there is significant medical history, when the circumstances of death are not suspicious and the external examination of the body shows no signs of injury, trauma or foul play, a death certificate may be issued based on this history and investigation. The forensic pathologist decides about autopsy based on these factors. Unlike hospital autopsies, forensic autopsies do not require consent from next of kin. If the family is known to have an objection to autopsy, due to religious reasons, the office will try to accommodate such wishes whenever possible.

Information, support and guidance are available.

Compassionate Friends

Provides support for the loss of an infant or child.
1-877-969-0010
www.compassionatefriends.org

GRASP

Grief Recovery After Substance Passing
215-788-3738

Highmark Caring Place

Provides services for children dealing with death & loss.
866-613-4673