**EFFECTIVE: Immediately Updated: Feb, 2020**

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| **PURPOSE:** | To appropriately determine when an autopsy or other forensic exam is needed. |
| **SCOPE:** | This guideline applies to sworn PCCO personnel. |
| **GUIDELINE:** | Colorado revised Statute 30-10-601.6 will be applicable in this guideline.  1. DETERMINE if the case needs an autopsy by judging the following categories.  a) Death due to motor vehicle accident.  b) Death suspected as homicide or unknown violent cause.    c) Death involving any police or correctional action.  d) Death involving fire.    e) Death involving a body of water.  f) Death involving a child that is unexpected or unexplained.  g) Death involving suspected overdose.  h) Death where pathology cannot be identified through medical history or scene investigation.   1. Death where the deceased is severely decomposed.   J) Death where sexual assault is suspected. Sane Kit shall be collected as evidence.  2. FORENSIC EXAMS other than autopsies shall be performed on the following cases.     1. Skeletal remains shall be examined by a Forensic Anthropologist. 2. Cases where cause is not thought to be overdosing however circumstances may involve drugs, CO, or alcohol shall have fluids drawn and sent to our current nationally certified lab, following toxicology guideline. 3. All Autopsies shall be conducted by a Board Certified Forensic Pathologist per state law unless for unique research related cases.   3. PARTIAL autopsies shall not be conducted unless the Forensic Pathologist determines it necessary due to an unique cases. |
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Approved by: David E Kintz Jr

Park County Coroner