

Tissue and Organ Donation

Policy:

The Skagit County Coroner's Office is fully aware of the need for organs and tissues for transplantation; therefore, the general policy of the Coroner's Office is to cooperate with the Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) to the fullest degree and to grant permission for requesting permission to procure tissue in as many cases as possible. Any issues requiring immediate attention should be brought to the Coroner.

It is the responsibility of the investigator to ascertain as many facts as possible regarding the decedent and circumstances of death. When the investigator receives a request for tissue donation, that request along with the circumstances of the case shall be discussed with the Coroner so that a decision can be made.

The decision is based on the nature of the death and the information available at the time the request is made. Depending on the nature of the case, the Coroner may release any and/or all requested tissues based on the medicolegal requirements of the death investigation. The investigator must request all documentation, photos and specimens collected during donation to be forwarded to the Coroner's Office to add to the case file.

All reported non-hospital deaths that fall within the following guidelines shall be referred to the tissue and organ donation agencies using the automated referral system in MDI Log. The investigator must complete all designated fields in MDI Log for the case to be auto referred to the Organ Procurement Organization (OPO). This is to be entered immediately following the report of death.

- Deaths presumed to have occurred less than 20 hours prior have potential for donation.

The Skagit County Coroner has a signed Memorandum of Agreement with Lions World Vision Institute and LifeNet Health. This agreement also includes utilizing the Skagit County Coroner's Autopsy suite for procurement of tissue and/or corneas on authorized cases. The Organ Procurement Organization is required to coordinate with the Coroner's Office regarding access to the autopsy suite.