

Initial Death Notification

Policy:

Deaths should be reported to the Skagit County Coroner's Office immediately in order to determine jurisdiction.

In general, all deaths occurring outside of admission to medical health care facilities (i.e, hospitals, nursing homes, and hospice) and certain cases of admitted deaths (falls with injury, delayed deaths during hospitalization) are reported.

Deaths are reported to the Skagit County Coroner's Office by police, medical personnel at hospitals, nursing homes, and by members of the funeral industry. These calls go to the main telephone number for the Skagit County Coroner's Office or are delivered by text message from the Skagit County Dispatch to all Coroner-issued cell phones.

The investigator will obtain demographic information about the decedent and the information regarding the circumstances of death, date and time of formal pronouncement, assign a case number, and determine whether or not the death falls under the jurisdiction of the Skagit County Coroner's Office.

During the initial report, the investigator will obtain circumstances and chain of events that led to the death.

The following will be obtained from the initial call:

- Date and time of call;
- Informant's name, title and contact information and agency case number if any;
- Location of death;
- Last, first and middle name of the decedent;
- Decedent's date of birth;
- Formal date and time of pronouncement;
- Gender, race and marital status;
- Social Security Number if available;
- Decedent's home address (NO PO BOXES);
- Approximate height and weight;
- Date and time of death (if was pronounced at a facility or by EMS);
- Date and time found and by whom;
- Last known alive, date and time;
- Next of kin, relationship and phone number;
- Was next of kin notified?
- Summarize the medical history and medications present;
- Primary care provider and hospitals and clinics visited;
- Briefly summarize the circumstances surrounding the death and why this is or is not a Coroner's case.