

Notification of Next of Kin

Policy:

Within the first 48 hours preceding the Coroner's involvement, the case investigator will attempt in good faith to locate and notify the legal next of kin of the decedent per RCW 68.50.300

- The case investigator will be sure of the victim's identity and provide notification as soon as possible.
- If possible, the case investigator will attempt to make an in-person death notification.
- The case investigator will always try to have two people present to make the notification
 - This may include a law enforcement officer or Support Officer
- If an investigator is unable to perform the in-person notification, then a Chaplain, Support Officer, or Law Enforcement Officer will be requested to assist in making the in person notification.
 - This might be necessary when attempting to deliver notification outside the county or in another state.
- When making a notification the investigator or messenger should:
 - Clearly identify his or herself
 - Relay the message directly and in plain language using victim's name.
 - Provide Coroner's contact information.
- The Coroner's Office will follow up with the next of kin within 24 hours.

THE SKAGIT COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE WILL DOCUMENT THE NOTIFICATION OF NEXT OF KIN IN THE INVESTIGATIVE REPORT AS WELL AS CASE NOTES IN MDI LOG.