

Property

Policy:

The Coroner's Office is responsible for property found on the decedent. In accordance with RCW 68.50.040, property may be collected from a decedent on a scene and transported to the Coroner's Office.

All property must be captured in one photograph and then photographed individually if needed.

If there is property that does not belong to the decedent (example: driver's license, credit cards), these items need to be handed over to law enforcement at the scene.

Property will be packaged in a waterproof evidence/property bag.

A list of property collected will be documented in MDI log under *property/evidence*.

- Property may include, but is not limited to: jewelry, keys, pocket knives, money (foreign and domestic), wallets, ID cards, credit/debit cards, miscellaneous cards, and dentures.
- Cash over \$50.00 will be documented and secured in the property/evidence locker located at the Coroner's Office. If the cash is not claimed within (3) three business days, it will be deposited to the Skagit County Treasurer's Office. A note will be entered into MDI log (under the documentation section, notes tab) including the date and time and the name of individuals involved in the transaction. A receipt from the Treasurers' Office will be scanned into the electronic case file and the original will be filed in the file cabinet.

The property will be released to the authorized legal next-of-kin as required by RCW 68.50160 or the designee selected (i.e. funeral home) by the legal next-of-kin. The recipient will electronically sign the property document in MDI log which will be automatically saved in MDI log in the documents section. A copy of the property release document will be printed for the case file as well as for the recipient receiving the property.

If property is obtained from a decedent of a homicide, all property obtained from the body will be released to the investigating law enforcement agency of jurisdiction as evidence if they so desire.

Per RCW 36.24.130 all unclaimed money must be handed over to the treasurer within 30 days. Property outside of cash must be claimed within 180 days otherwise it will be released to county auction. Proceeds will be handed over to the Treasurer's Office.