BOULDER COUNTY CORONER VACANCY

JANUARY 11, 2024
STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR INVESTIGATING DEATHS: C.R.S. 30-10-606

- Unnatural due to violence or injury
- Result of intoxication by alcohol, drugs, or poison
- Result of an accident, including at the workplace
- Unexpected or unexplained child deaths
- Unattended by a physician
- Within 24-hours of admission to a hospital
STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR INVESTIGATING DEATHS: C.R.S. 30-10-606

- Disease that constitutes a threat to public health
- Law enforcement involved (in the custody or while incarcerated)
- Sudden, when apparent good health
- Unidentifiable, decomposed, charred, or skeletonized
- Circumstances that the coroner otherwise determines require further inquiry
CORONER’S OFFICE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Determine cause and manner of death
- Perform investigations and examinations
  - Autopsy, External, Toxicology, Radiology, Anthropology
- Identify decedents (fingerprint, x-ray, DNA, visual, etc.)
- Locate and notify next of kin
- Sign death certificate
- Answer questions for family and friends
CORONER’S OFFICE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Mandatory reporting
  - OSHA, FAA, Public Health, Child Fatality
- Public information
  - Emerging Drugs, Unhoused, Vehicle fatality
- Provide grief support and resources
- Final disposition
- Disaster preparedness and operations
- Indigent and unclaimed decedents and property
BOULDER COUNTY CORONER’S JURISDICTION

Cities/Towns
- Boulder
- Erie
- Jamestown
- Lafayette
- Longmont
- Louisville
- Lyons
- Nederland
- Superior
- Ward

Unincorporated Boulder County
Death investigations are conducted in conjunction with law enforcement, but agencies have separate goals.
THE CORONER’S ROLE

- Coroner is elected (or appointed, where vacancy occurs) to four-year term
- Manage day-to-day operations of the Office
  - Administration Division: Personnel, Budget
  - Operations Division: Investigations Unit, Pathology Unit, Family Assistance Unit
- Determine cause and manner of death
THE CORONER’S ROLE

- Meet Colorado coroner standards and training board requirements
- Develop community and stakeholder relationships and resources
- Participate in legal and legislative matters
- Represent the Office through associations, boards, accrediting bodies

Boco.org/CoronerVacancy
BOULDER COUNTY CORONER’S FACILITY

- 5610 Flatiron Parkway, Boulder
- 24/7 Coverage
- Public Office Hours:
  Mon to Fri, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Investigator Office Hours
  Daily, 6 a.m.– 8 p.m.
- On-Call Hours
  Daily, 8 p.m. – 6 a.m.
WHY ARE THE BOULDER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RESPONSIBLE FOR APPOINTING THIS VACANCY?

- The Constitution of the State of Colorado, art. XIV, sec. 9
  - [l]n case of a vacancy in any other county office [other than the office of county commissioner], ... the board of county commissioners shall fill the same by appointment. Any person appointed pursuant to this section shall hold the office until the next general election, or until the vacancy is filled by election according to law.

- C.R.S. 1-12-205 Vacancies in county offices
  - All vacancies in any county office, except that of county commissioner, shall be filled by appointment by the board of county commissioners of the county in which the vacancy occurs, until the next general election, at which time the vacancy shall be filled by election.
WHAT TERM DOES THE PERSON APPOINTED TO FILL THE VACANCY HOLD?

- C.R.S. 1-12-209. Terms of persons filling vacancies.
  - Except for appointments on nonpartisan boards, any officers elected or appointed to fill vacancies as provided in this article shall qualify and enter upon the duties of their offices immediately thereafter. If elected or appointed, the officers shall hold the office during the unexpired term for which they were elected and until their successors are elected, qualified, and take office ....
CORONER VACANCY PROCESS

Community Input
January 11-25

Applications
January 11-25

Public Interviews #1
February 6 at 1 PM

Public Interviews #2
February 15 at 2 PM

New Coroner Appointed

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QUESTIONS
& COMMENTS