
Family/Victims Advocacy

Ouray County Victim Services is a shared program between the Ouray County Sheriff's Office, Ouray Police Department and Ridgway Marshal's Office. Crimes can happen at anytime and any day so our services are available 24/7 and 7 days a week to provide the needed support to victims of crime. Victim Advocates help victims navigate the complicated judicial system, applying for resources, and ensuring their rights as a victim are being met.

Safety & Healing Resources

They partner with trusted community agencies to help ensure your safety and well-being. Services include:

- Safe housing and emergency shelter options
- Safety planning tailored to your situation
- Assistance with civil protection orders
- Temporary care solutions for pets
- Support following the death of a loved one, including navigating next steps

Healing looks different for everyone. No matter where you are in your journey, we're here to walk alongside you — with support, resources, and unwavering belief in your strength.

For any questions on resources available or your reporting options, please reach out to:

Tabitha Champlin, Victim Advocate
970-318-9615

Please see the 7th Judicial District for additional resources: <https://www.co7da.org/victim-services/victim-resources/>



Office Of the Ouray County Coroner

R. Glenn Boyd

Ouray County Coroner

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Ouray County Coroner's Office is to conduct independent, thorough, and professional death investigations in accordance with Colorado law, ensuring accurate determinations of cause and manner of death while serving the community with integrity, fiscal responsibility, and respect for the deceased and their families.



Local Services

Area Mortuaries

Montrose: Crippin Funeral Home — (970) 249-2121

Delta: Taylor Funeral Service — (970) 874-9988

Grand Junction:

Brown's Cremation and Funeral Service — (970) 255-8888

Callahan-Edfast Mortuary & Crematory — (970) 243-2450

Clifton Funeral Home — (970) 628-1458

Grand Valley Funeral Homes — (970) 787-5900

Legacy Funeral Home — (970) 609-2233

Martin Mortuary — (970) 243-1538

Mesa Mortuary — (970) 628-4000

Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado — (970) 263-8986

Cleaning Services

Aftermath — (877) 897-5995

Biohazard and Restoration Specialists — (970) 261-1388

Servpro of Montrose/Telluride — (970) 650-8722

Steri-Clean — (970) 240-6970

Valor Technical Cleaning — (855) 599-8960

Frequently Asked Questions

What about organ or body donation?

Organ Donation: Organ donation requires approval from the Coroner's Office. If you are interested, please speak with the assigned investigator. Additional information is available at: www.donoralliance.org

Body Donation Resources

- Donor Alliance — (888) 868-4747
- Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank — (800) 444-7479
- University of Colorado State Anatomical Board — (303) 724-2410
- Science Care — (800) 417-3747
- MedCure — (866) 560-2525
- Tomorrow Link — (720) 779-8677
- BioGift — (866) 670-1799

**Donations to the Colorado Mesa University Forensic Investigation Research Station are made through the University of Colorado State Anatomical Board.*

Roles

The Ouray County Coroner's Office investigates deaths that are sudden, unexpected, unattended, violent, or suspicious. Each investigation is conducted with diligence and objectivity to establish the facts surrounding a death and to determine the correct cause and manner of death. The Coroner's Office recognizes that the sudden loss of a loved one is an extremely difficult time for families. While fulfilling its investigative responsibilities, the office strives to communicate clearly, answer questions within its legal authority, and treat every decedent and family with dignity, professionalism, and compassion.

Independence & Authority Statement

The Ouray County Coroner is an elected official and operates independently of law enforcement and other agencies. Although the Coroner works closely with law enforcement, emergency services, and medical professionals, the coroner's responsibility is to conduct an objective death investigation and determine the truth surrounding each death.

Responsibilities

Per CRS 30-10-606 the Coroner's Office is responsible for:

- Determination of Cause and Manner of Death
- Identification of the deceased
- Notification of death to the next of kin
- Performing autopsies when one is warranted
- Signing death certificates
- Working with mortuaries
- Testifying in civil and criminal proceedings
- Distributing accurate and timely information to family members and the community

Frequently Asked Questions

What if I want to bury my loved one on private land in Ouray County?

Private land burial is permitted in Colorado but must comply with Colorado Revised Statutes §25-2-111 and local recording requirements.

Before a burial may occur on private property:

- The death must be registered, and a death certificate filed
- A burial-transit permit must be issued
- The exact location of the burial must be documented and recorded with the County Clerk and Recorder (*A surveyor or GPS-based map is strongly recommended*)
- The Coroner's Office must be notified and confirm that the death investigation is complete prior to burial.

Families are encouraged to work with a funeral home to ensure all statutory and recording requirements are met. Failure to properly document and record a private burial can create legal and property issues for future landowners.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where do I obtain a death certificate?

Death certificates are filed by the funeral home with Vital Statistics in the county where death was pronounced. Copies may be requested through:

- Your selected funeral home
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- Montrose County Vital Statistics (Ouray County records)

How do I obtain an autopsy report?

Under CRS § 24-72-202, autopsy reports (excluding minors) become public records once the investigation is complete.

- Autopsy reports typically take 8–10 weeks
- Death certificates and Coroner Investigative Reports are not public records

Immediate family may request a copy directly by email, including name, relationship, and mailing address.

All other requests must be submitted through the Ouray County Open Records Request process:

<https://ouraycountyco.gov/428/CORA-Requests>

Frequently Asked Questions

What are my next steps?

Please select a funeral home to assist with final arrangements. Once selected, the funeral home and the Coroner's Office will coordinate directly to facilitate release and avoid unnecessary delays.

Which deaths must be examined?

Colorado law requires the Coroner's Office to investigate deaths that are sudden, unexpected, unattended, suspicious, violent, or cannot clearly be determined as natural based on medical history and circumstances. Jurisdiction may also be taken when there is no treating physician, limited medical history, potential public health concerns, or unusual circumstances.

Coroner involvement does not automatically require an autopsy.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is an autopsy?

An autopsy is a medical examination performed by a board-certified forensic pathologist to determine:

- **Cause of death** – the injury or disease resulting in death
- **Manner of death** – Natural, Accident, Suicide, Homicide, or Undetermined

Autopsies are generally required for deaths involving violence, suspected criminal activity, traffic crashes, unexpected or unexplained circumstances, police action or custody, workplace injuries, drowning, electrocution, or suspected intoxication.

Where can I view my loved one?

Viewings may be arranged through the selected funeral home if conditions allow. Viewings are not permitted at the Coroner's Office or pathology laboratory.

Frequently Asked Questions

How long until my loved one can be released?

The assigned investigator will communicate whether an autopsy is required and provide an anticipated release timeline. Timelines vary based on investigative and medical needs.

How do we obtain personal effects?

Releasable personal effects collected by the Coroner's Office are inventoried and typically remain with the decedent and are released to the funeral home.

Family members may contact the investigator or the Coroner's Office for assistance.

Motor vehicle crashes: Personal belongings found in or around vehicles are usually collected and released by the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction.