

## Funeral Homes

American Cremation & Casket	1-800-398-7101
American Memorial	Olympia (360) 956-0647
BonneyWatson Federal Way & SeaTac	(253) 839-7317
Brown Mortuary	Chehalis (360) 748-4496
Cascade Funeral Home	Cle Elum (509) 674-4445
Cattermole	Winlock (360) 785-3881
Cremation Society of WA	Puyallup(253)682-6800
Coleman Mortuary	Hoquiam (360) 532-4090
Week's Dryer Mortuary	Tacoma (253) 537-0253
Edwards Memorial	Lakewood (253) 200-1533
Washelli Funeral Services	Seattle (206) 362-5200
Fern Hill	Aberdeen (360) 532-0220
Fir Lane	Spanaway (253) 531-6600
First Call Plus	Kent (253) 893-0321
Forest	Olympia (360)943-6363
Funeraria Universal	Tacoma (253) 230-2920
Funeral Alternatives	Lacey (360) 491-2222
Funeral Alternatives	Tumwater (360)207-5935
Funeral Alternatives	Centralia (360)807-4468
Gaffney Funeral Home	Tacoma (253) 572-6003
Harrison Family Mortuary	Aberdeen (360) 533-8864
McComb & Wagner	Shelton&Tumwater (360) 426-4803
Mills & Mills	Olympia (360) 357-7743
Mt. View	Lakewood (253) 948-9895
Neptune Society	Tacoma (253) 444-4812
New Tacoma	Tacoma (253) 472-3369
Newell-Hoerling's	Centralia (360) 736-3317
Personal Alternatives	Kent (253)852-9600
Scanlin Cremation & Burial	Tacoma (253) 820-4105
Scott Funeral Home & Cremation	Tacoma (253) 572-9555
Sticklin Funeral Chapel	Centralia (360) 736-1388
Stoller's Mortuary	Raymond (360) 942-2071
Woodlawn	Lacey (360)491-3000

## Support Groups

### Compassionate Friends

877-969-0010

### SIDS FNDN ([www.nisa-sids.org](http://www.nisa-sids.org))

800-533-0376

### Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood

800-620-7832

### National Center for Victims of Crime

(202) 467-8700

### MADD Mother's Against Drunk Driving

<http://www.madd.org/victim-services/>

877-MADD-HELP (24 hr victim/survivor help line)

**Crises Clinic** (360) 586-2800

**Youth Help Line** (360) 586-2777

### Survivors of Suicide (SOS)

Janis Fesenmaier (360) 866-2509

### Assured Home Health & Hospice

800-833-9404

### Providence SoundHomeCare and Hospice

(360) 459-8311

### The Tears Foundation

Survivors of Pregnancy, Infant, and Child Loss

<http://www.thetearsfoundation.org/>

(253) 200-0944

### Raise for Rowyn

Support for families struggling with the loss of a child

[www.raiseforrowyn.org](http://www.raiseforrowyn.org)

(360) 264-7676

### Bio-Hazard Clean-Up Services

Med Tech Cleaners and Property Restoration

877-652-9984

Bio Decon Solutions, LLC

(253) 320-8657

Bio-Management NW

877-524-6411

Bio-Tech Emergency Services

888-246-9111

Aftermath

800-366-9923

# Thurston County Coroner's Office



## Resource Guide

Mailing Address:

Courthouse, Olympia, WA 98502-6045

Physical Address:

2925 37th Ave SW, Tumwater, WA 98512

Phone: (360) 867-2140

Fax: (360) 867-2141

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Gary Warnock  
Coroner

*This brochure was prepared to help answer questions that often arise after the death of a family member. We hope this information will be helpful during this difficult time. We recognize the loss of a loved one brings deep sorrow and wish to express our sincere sympathy to you. This can be a very stressful time when some, perhaps difficult, decisions need to be made. It is our hope you have family and/or friends to assist you with some of the details that need immediate attention. Remember also to take care of yourself through this time by eating and resting as best you can. Many things can be put off until you are feeling able to deal with them. If you have any questions or if we can be any help to you, please feel free to call us.*

### **INVESTIGATIONS**

The Thurston County Coroner's Office is authorized by Washington State and Thurston County laws to conduct investigations of any sudden, unexpected, unnatural, suspicious or violent death.

Our investigations often include taking pictures at the location of death, interviews, and gathering any evidence necessary. Next-of-kin may be asked personal questions about the decedent in order to provide any information helpful in determining cause and/or manner of death. Other questions are asked for information needed for the death certificate. If you do not understand why a question was asked, please feel free to ask the investigator.

Occasionally, the decedent is removed from the scene and transported to the Thurston County Coroner's Office. Further examination and investigation will continue here and the need for an autopsy will be determined. The investigator will stay in touch with the family about these procedures. A qualified forensic pathologist does all autopsies to determine cause and/or manner of death. Autopsies are performed as soon as can be arranged. During this time, the body remains secured at our facility. If you have not already done so, please notify this office regarding which funeral home you wish to use, and we will make all the necessary arrangements for transport.

### **DEATH CERTIFICATES**

Death certificates are generated by the funeral home and are signed by either a physician or our office. The funeral home registers them with the Thurston County Health Department and the WA State Dept. of Health Vital Records. A certified copy of the death certificate is usually needed to settle the estate and can be ordered through the funeral home. Copies can also be obtained from the Thurston County Health Department or WA State Dept. of Health for up to 3 years following a death. The Thurston County Coroner's Office does not distribute death certificates.

#### **Thurston County Health Department**

412 Lilly Rd NE Olympia, WA 98506  
(360) 867-2500

#### **WA State Dept. of Health Vital Records**

101 Israel Rd SE Tumwater, WA 98501  
(360) 236-4300

### **SOCIAL SECURITY**

Social security benefits might be available to a surviving spouse and/or children. Contact the Social Security Office for more information.  
800-772-1213 [www.ssa.gov/survivorplan](http://www.ssa.gov/survivorplan)

### **ON THE JOB DEATHS & DEATHS RESULTING FROM CRIME**

The State Dept. of Labor & Industries may pay a benefit for an employee whose death occurred as a result of, or, at their place of employment. If the death occurred from a criminal act, benefits may be available from the Crime Victims Compensation Program administered by the same department.  
800-762-3716 [www.LNI.wa.gov](http://www.LNI.wa.gov)  
(360) 902-5316 (Thurston County Office)

### **VETERAN'S BENEFITS**

Burial benefits may be available for those who were Veteran's. Funeral homes are generally knowledgeable and can assist with arrangements. You will need a copy of the discharge papers (DD Form 214).

Thurston County Veterans' Assistance Fund  
(360) 867-2625  
[www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ssveteran/index.html](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ssveteran/index.html)

US Dept. of Veteran's Affairs 800-827-1000  
[www.cem.va.gov/CEM](http://www.cem.va.gov/CEM) [www.wa.gov](http://www.wa.gov)

### **PERSONAL EFFECTS**

Personal items collected on scene or that accompany the decedent to our office are secured at our facility. These items can be picked up by next-of-kin or transported to the funeral home with the decedent and collected at their facility. It is best to call ahead and arrange a time with the investigator. Written permission from the next-of-kin is required by this office for us to release personal effects to someone other than the next-of-kin. In some cases, the investigating police department may collect part or all of the personal effects as evidence. These items will then be made available to you by the police department only after all legal proceedings have been completed.

Prescription medications collected on scene will be disposed of properly by this office.

### **TOXICOLOGY**

If necessary, body fluids are drawn and sent to the Washington State Patrol Toxicology Lab for drug screening. Results can take several months to receive. The investigator will contact next-of-kin to disclose results once they are received. If you suspect a particular drug/substance, inform the investigator so the appropriate tests can be requested.

### **INFORMATION TO HAVE AVAILABLE**

Funeral homes will need some information in order to complete the death certificate. This may include parent's names, birthplace, social security number, military discharge papers, date of birth, education level, occupation, marital status, spouse's name, and will/executor paperwork.

### **THINGS TO CONSIDER**

\*The decedent may have pre-paid funeral arrangements or funeral insurance.

\*Unions and fraternal organizations sometimes have death benefits.

\*Mortgage and credit card companies may have a life insurance plan.

\*Many wills and trusts are recorded with the Thurston County Clerk's Office  
(360) 786-5430

\*Vehicle titles can be transferred through the Thurston County Auditor's Office  
(360) 786-5406