

Where Will My Relative/Friend Be Taken?

He / She will be taken to the Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner's building located at:
1104 N. Mission Road
Los Angeles, California 90033
(323) 343-0714

What if My Loved One Was in the Military?

A person who served in the United States Armed Forces and who was honorably discharged may be entitled to Veteran's burial benefits. For information contact the Los Angeles County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs at (877) 4LAVETS or (213) 744-483.

What if I Don't Have any Funds for the Burial?

Families may find themselves financially unable to cover costs related to the final disposition for loved ones. The alternative is county disposition. In these circumstances, proof of indigence is required. The legal next of kin should contact the Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner Identification and Notification unit at (323) 343-0755 for further information.

Death Certificates can be purchased from Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

12400 Imperial Hwy.
Los Angeles, CA 9050
Rm. 1002

Monday–Friday
8:00am– 5:00pm
(800) 815-2666
<http://lavote.net>

PSALM 23

The Lord is my Shephard;
I shall not want.
He leads me beside the still waters.
He restores my soul;
He leads me in the paths of righteousness for
His name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
For You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of
my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil;
My cup runs over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.



Medical Examiner-Coroner

1104 N. Mission Road
Los Angeles, CA 90033

Monday - Friday
8:00am - 5:00pm
(323) 343-0512

After Business Hours
(323) 343-0714
<http://mec.lacounty.gov>

L.A County Coroner

Information for relatives and friends of deceased person, to help guide you through this difficult time.



"I will never leave you nor forsake you"

—Hebrews 13:5b ESV

Provided By:
Christian Chaplain Services Inc.

8129 Somerset Boulevard
Paramount, CA 90723
(562) 531-0117 / (562) 531-2269 fax
www.pmausa.org

Why a Coroner?

The Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner is required by state law (Government Code 27491) to investigate any sudden, violent, or unusual deaths and those deaths where the decedent has not been seen by a physician 20 days prior to death. It is the responsibility of the Coroner to establish positive identity of the deceased: determine the circumstances, manner and cause of death. The Coroner's investigation is not only limited to the examination of the deceased but may include interviews with the family members and other witnesses. The collection of physical evidence and the safeguarding of personal property found at the death scene may also occur.

What Do I Do Now?

Contact a funeral home of your choice and inform the funeral director that the death is being investigated by the Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner. You will need to sign a release form establishing your legal right to control the remains. The Coroners office does not select funeral homes, nor does it make recommendations for one. The deceased cannot be released to a funeral home without authorization from the legal next of kin. If somebody other than the legal next of kin is making arrangements for your loved one, written authorization is needed with signature from the legal next of kin.

Viewing the Decedent

The Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner's facility is not designed to accommodate viewing. In a majority of cases, visual identification is not required. Arrangements for viewing may be made at funeral home of choice.

Who is the Next of Kin?

Section 7100 of the Health & Safety Code establishes the legal next of kin for decisions related to funeral arrangements.

The general order of priority of kin is:

1. Spouse
2. Child
3. Parent
4. Sibling
5. Conservator
6. Public Administrator
7. Person with Durable Power of Attorney

What Do I Do if there is Coroner Seal on the Residence?

It is a misdemeanor to remove a Coroner Seal or enter a sealed residence without permission or written authorization. In order to enter you need to get permission from the agency listed on the door seal or call (213) 974-0460 or (323) 343-0755.

How Can I Obtain Their Personal Possessions'?

The legal next of kin may claim a deceased person's property at the Department of Medical Examiner Coroner's Office. The Personal Property Section is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and is closed weekends and holidays. Sometimes property is taken into custody for further investigation. Government documents (driver's licenses, passports, military identification cards) will not be released to next of kin, but will be returned to the issuing agency for disposition.

Investigation of Death

The Coroner attempts to determine the cause of death by the least intrusive means possible under the circumstances surrounding the death. This may be accomplished through the use of medical consultation and records, autopsies, external examinations and laboratory testing. For this reason, the cause of death may take up to 8-10 weeks to determine. When an autopsy is conducted there are occasions when an organ or tissue may be retained for further examination to assure that an accurate cause and manner of death can be determined by the forensic pathologist (2791.45 Ca.Gov. Code). This examination may be conducted at the Sheriffs Coroner's Office or may be submitted to an outside laboratory or hospital for examination.

Prayer for Strength and Sympathy

God of love, may I come quickly to thee, when I am in need of protection and sympathy. Guard me against sorrow that is drawn from the imagination. May I not allow grief to drag me into misery, but with strength and courage may I find comfort in thy daily will. Amen.



Prayer for Strength and Comfort

My Lord, if I may be walking through fields that are rough with grief and care, may I have the courage to continue on to the smooth pastures, where I may walk with comfort and peace. May I not let the weariness and sorrow that may come to my heart today dwarf my hope and enjoyment of the future. Amen.