

JUNEAU COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE

An autopsy is an examination and documentation by a pathologist, looking for evidence of a person's medical conditions to determine cause and manner of death. The pathologist looks for diseases or any injuries done to the deceased by examining organs and tissues. Samples of blood, urine, or other fluids are sent to a lab for toxicology testing. The Coroner will determine the cause and manner of death based upon all the information in hand, including the autopsy and toxicological findings.

What are the Criteria for Ordering an Autopsy?

- All Homicides or suspected homicides
- Death as a result of actual or suspected, sudden-unexplained-infant-death syndrome.
- A child under 18 years of age has died suddenly and unexpectedly
- Suspected abuse or neglect cases
- Death where the cause cannot be determined with a high degree of probability
- Death as a result of a motor vehicle accident, including hit-and-run to a pedestrian.
- Work related injury
- Product related injury
- Traffic Fatalities
- Death in prison, jail, or otherwise in the custody of law enforcement.
- When condition of the body does not permit identification (skeletal remains, severely burned remains).
- Any case where it is believed that an autopsy will materially assist in determining the true cause and/or manner of death
- Upon Juneau County District Attorney request

Reports and Results: Preliminary results of an autopsy are available within 7 – 10 days of an autopsy. The final results are available within 6 – 8 weeks depending on the depth of the testing needed to determine the cause of death.

Official Coroner's Autopsy: Will be provided at no cost to the family members or estate of the decedent. In the event a Coroner's autopsy is not ordered, the family or physician may request an autopsy be conducted.

Family Requested Autopsy: If the family of the decedent requests an autopsy the Coroner's office will assist in making the arrangements. The cost of the transportation and autopsy will be paid by the requestor of the autopsy. The fee is due to the institution at the time the autopsy is performed.