

Information the funeral home will need:

Date of birth:
Place of birth:
Mother's maiden name:
Father's name:
Social Security number:
Veteran's information:
Education:
Occupation:
Marital Status:

You may choose **any** funeral home for final disposition of the deceased. Below you will find a list of funeral homes in **Columbia County** that provide burial and cremation services.

Columbia Funeral Home Inc.
St. Helens: (503) 397-1154

Haakinson - Grouix Mortuary
Clatskanie: (503) 728-2323
Rainier: (503) 556-5131

Fulten - Rose & Hoyt Funeral Home
Vernonia: (503) 429-6611

Responding Police Agency:

Agency: Vernonia Police Department

Officer: _____

Case #: _____

**Responding Deputy
Medical Examiner**

Telephone (503) 543-3114

Scappoose Police Department
33568 E. Columbia Ave.
Scappoose, OR 97056
(503) 543-3114 office
(503) 543-2955 fax

Other Support Agencies:

Columbia County Crime Victim's Assistance:
(503) 366-3916
(877) 421-5700

Columbia County Mental Health:
(503) 397-5211

Dougy Center:
(503) 775-5683

AARP Grief and Loss:
(866) 797-2277

Oregon Legal Service:
(503) 645-0476

Survivors Grief Group:
(503) 645-0476

Compassionate Friends:
(503) 248-0102

Cleaning Services:

Bio-Med Cleaning Service:
(800) 434-6654

Service Master of Gresham:
(503) 667-5491

Service Pro of Gresham:
(503) 665-7752

Craig Milton Complete Carpet Restoration
Service:
(503) 397-9060



***Information &
Answers for
Family and Friends***

Provided by:

**District Attorney
R. Stephen Atchison**
230 Strand Street
St. Helens, Oregon 97051

**State Medical Examiner
Dr. Karen Gunson**
Clackamas County
Examiners Office
13309 SE 84th Ave.
Clackamas, Oregon 97015

24 Hour Telephone Number
(503) 655-8380

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Vernonia Police Department extends its sympathy during this time of loss and grief. We will do our best to assist you in a professional and caring manner.

This pamphlet will provide basic information and answers to some frequently asked questions. If you do not find the answers to your questions here, please contact our office at (503) 543-3114.

FAQ's

Q. Where will the deceased be taken?

A. In some cases, the deceased may be released to a funeral home of the family's choice after the initial scene investigation. In other cases, further examination is necessary and the deceased will be taken to the State Medical Examiner's Office in Clackamas, Oregon for this purpose.

Q. Is it necessary for a relative or friend to come to the Medical Examiners Office to identify the body?

A. No. We will use photo identification when possible. We may also use fingerprints, distinguishing marks or dental records.

Q. Why is the Medical Examiner's Officer involved?

A. Pursuant to Oregon Revised Statue 146.090, the Medical Examiner shall investigate and certify the cause and manner of death of all human deaths that are:

a) Apparently homicidal, suicidal, or occurring under suspicious or unknown circumstances;

- b) Resulting from the unlawful use of controlled substances or the use or abuse of chemicals or toxic agents;
- c) Occurring while incarcerated in any jail, correction facility or in police custody;
- d) Apparently accidental or following an injury;
- e) By disease, injury or toxic agent during or arising from employment;
- f) While under the care of a physician during the period immediately previous to death;
- g) Related to disease which might constitute a threat to public health;
- h) In which a human body has been disposed of in an offensive manner.

Q. Will an examination or autopsy be performed?

A. An examination or autopsy will be performed when necessary to establish the cause and manner of death for the purpose of issuing an accurate death certificate, and in cases involving criminal or suspected criminal wrongdoing.

Q. Do I have to consent to an autopsy or examination?

A. Your desires will always be considered, however, the State Medical Examiner makes the decision about what examination procedures are necessary.

Q. Will an examination prevent a funeral service or viewing?

A. No. It is a careful examination of the body, performed with sensitivity. The

procedure does not prevent the body from being viewed by family and friends, or preclude a funeral service.

Q. Do I have to pay for the examination?

A. No. Examination costs are paid for with public funds.

Q. How long will the body remain in the Medical Examiners facility?

A. Generally, the examination will be done the day after the death and the body will then be released to a funeral service of the family's choice. However, some situations do take longer.

Q. What should I do after being made aware of the death and the involvement of the Medical Examiner?

A. Select a funeral home and advise then that the death is being investigated by the Medical Examiner. Funeral directors are familiar with the operation of the Medical Examiner's Office, and can assist you in making all arrangements for final disposition of the deceased, including obtaining the death certificate. The Medical Examiner cannot recommend a funeral home.

Q. Where will the personal property be taken?

A. The personal property of the deceased will normally be secured at our office to be returned to the next-of-kin with proper identification. Officer hours are Monday-Friday 9:00am—5:00pm. Please call to make an appointment (503) 543-3114.

Q. If an examination was performed will I be made aware of the results?

A. Yes. If you contact the Medical Examiner's Office, a day or two following the examination, preliminary results should be available.

Q. Will I able to get copies of the Medical Examiner's reports?

A. Copies of the examination and toxicology reports will be made available to the next-of-kin at no cost. Please ask to Medical Examiner's Office to provide the information if desired.

Q. When will I be able to obtain a death certificate?

A. After the examination, the Medical Examiner will issue a death certificate to the funeral service handling the arrangements for the family. Certified copies of the death certificate are available normally at the County Clerk's office or at the State Vital Records.

Q. Can organ donations be made?

A. In most cases, yes. The Medical Examiner will authorize anatomical gifts whenever possible. Certain cases preclude donations. The Medical Examiner will arrange for donations at the family's request. The family may also call the Oregon referral line 1-800-344-8916 for the State of Oregon.