



THIRD PARTY AUTHORIZATION FOR MEDICAL EXAMINER REPORT RELEASE

Release of confidential records by the Pierce County Medical Examiner's Office to those not specifically authorized under RCW 68.50.105 requires a written authorization for release from the legal next-of-kin or the legal personal representative of the deceased.

I am the surviving (____) next-of-kin or the (____) legal representative per RCW 68.50.105 of:

_____ (Name of decedent)

_____ (date of death) _____ (date of birth)

I specifically request and authorize the Pierce County Medical Examiner's Office to release:

Postmortem Examination Report (____), Death Investigation Report(s) (____), Toxicology (____), and/or Photos (____) to:

_____ (Name of person)

_____ (Agency or Organization)

_____ (Street address)

_____ (City, State, Zip)

This authorization expires on _____ (or ___ 90 days after signed). I may revoke this authorization at any time by providing written notice. **Requesting family member must attach government issued photo identification. Legal representatives must attach the court document.**

I understand that the Pierce County Medical Examiner reports and records may contain detailed medical information regarding testing, diagnosis, and/or treatment of HIV (AIDS virus), positive sexually transmitted diseases, drug and/or alcohol abuse, mental illness or psychiatric treatment.

Printed name of Next-of-Kin/Personal Representative

Relationship to Decedent

Signature

Date

Mailing address

Daytime phone

The process of completing Postmortem Examination Reports may take months. Once completed, you will be notified within three business days of the duplication fee.



RCW 68.50.105

Autopsies, postmortems—Reports and records confidential—Exceptions.

RCW 68.50.105. Autopsies, postmortems--Reports and records confidential—Exceptions

(1) Reports and records of autopsies or postmortems shall be confidential, except that the following persons may examine and obtain copies of any such report or record: The personal representative of the decedent as defined in [RCW 11.02.005](#), any family member, the attending physician or advanced registered nurse practitioner, the prosecuting attorney or law enforcement agencies having jurisdiction, public health officials, the department of labor and industries in cases in which it has an interest under [RCW 68.50.103](#), or the secretary of the department of children, youth, and families or his or her designee in cases being reviewed under [RCW 74.13.640](#). . . .

(2)(a) Notwithstanding the restrictions contained in this section regarding the dissemination of records and reports of autopsies or postmortems, nor the exemptions referenced under RCW [42.56.240\(1\)](#), nothing in this chapter prohibits a coroner, medical examiner, or his or her designee, from publicly discussing his or her findings as to any death subject to the jurisdiction of his or her office where actions of a law enforcement officer or corrections officer have been determined to be a proximate cause of the death, except as provided in (b) of this subsection.

(b) A coroner, medical examiner, or his or her designee may not publicly discuss his or her findings outside of formal court or inquest proceedings if there is a pending or active criminal investigation, or a criminal or civil action, concerning a death that has commenced prior to January 1, 2014.

(3) The coroner, the medical examiner, or the attending physician shall, upon request, meet with the family of the decedent to discuss the findings of the autopsy or postmortem. For the purposes of this section, the term “family” means the surviving spouse, state registered domestic partner, or any child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, brother, or sister of the decedent, or any person who was guardian of the decedent at the time of death.

[2019 c 470 § 14; 2013 c 295 § 1; 2011 c 61 § 1. Prior: 2007 c 439 § 1; 2007 c 156 § 23; 1987 c 331 § 58; 1985 c 300 § 1; 1977 c 79 § 2; 1953 c 188 § 9. Formerly RCW 68.08.105.]