

## Section 201

# Indiana Forensic Resources

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Coroners often require the services of experts from several areas of forensic science. The following is a list of such experts from the state of Indiana. Each expert or agency listed has an excellent reputation and can be contacted for training, information or forensic analysis within his/her field of expertise. Each individual or agency will provide court/expert witness testimony as required. A schedule of fees will be provided to interested coroners upon request. A brief list of *typical* services is provided for each forensic speciality. The individual expert or agency should be contacted for a full list of services as they may vary among the sources listed.

**Note:** The resources contained in this list are *not all inclusive*. Indiana coroners who know of other Indiana resources are urged to contact the Indiana State Coroners Training Board with any information to augment this list. The listing of these individuals/agencies should not be considered a recommendation by the authors or the Indiana State Coroners Training Board.

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### Section 201.1

#### Forensic Odontology

Forensic odontology (dentistry) refers to scientific analysis of dental evidence by licensed individuals with dental degrees (D.D.S. or D.M.D.) for use in the criminal justice system. Their primary focus is the identification of individuals through analysis of dental evidence. This is often accomplished by comparison of the decedent's dental structure with existing dental records. They also provide scientific analysis of bite marks in cases involving homicides, child and elderly abuse, and certain cases involving sexual aberrations. They are most noted for their skill in identifying victims from mass disasters. Many coroners successfully use local dentists to help in individual identifications. In difficult cases, and for bitemarks, it is suggested that Board Certified Odontologists be used.

#### *Typical Services:*

- Victim identification
- Analysis of bite mark evidence

#### **Dr. Edwin Parks**

1121 W. Michigan St.  
 Room S109  
 Indiana University School of Dentistry  
 Indianapolis, IN 46202  
 (317) 278-3306

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### Section 201.2

#### Forensic Entomology

Forensic entomology refers to the application of the scientific study of insects and their relatives for use in the criminal justice process. The study of insects and their relatives includes spiders, crustaceans (crayfish), mites and others. Through analysis of adult insects and their eggs, larvae and pupae, entomologists can provide a time of death estimate. Entomologists may also be helpful in determining ante and post-mortem insect activity.

Entomologists have also been instrumental in resolving activities surrounding cases involving rape, child and elderly abuse and deaths due to the bites of many venomous insects to include scorpions and bees.

#### *Typical Services:*

- Estimate time of death by analyzing the life cycles of insects
- Identify insects and their normal habitats
- Movement of victim's body after death
- Determine actual location of death

#### **Dr. Neal H. Haskell, Ph.D., B.C.E.**

425 Kannal Avenue  
Rensselaer, IN, 47978

-OR-

Department of Biological Sciences  
St. Joseph's College  
Rensselaer, IN, 47978  
(219) 866-7824 [Laboratory]  
(219) 866-3460 [Home]  
(219) 866-7628 [FAX]

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### Section 201.3

#### Forensic Anthropology

Forensic anthropology refers to the application of physical anthropology for use in the criminal justice process. Forensic anthropologists identify and obtain information from the analysis of skeletal remains. Through analysis of skeletal remains they are able to: distinguish human from animal bones, determine a victim's age and physical characteristics, distinguish between pre and post-mortem injuries to skeletal remains and determine the age of the bones themselves. Forensic anthropologists are also trained in archeological methods and thus can perform controlled excavation of buried or scattered human remains and assist in the location of hidden graves.

#### *Typical Services:*

- Assist in victim identification: may determine age, sex, size and race
- Determine if skeletal remains are human or animal
- Determine the age of the skeletal remains
- Estimate time of death
- Excavation of remains and associated evidence
- Search for and recovery of graves and hidden remains

#### **Dr. Stephen Nawrocki and Associates**

Department of Biology  
University of Indianapolis  
1400 East Hanna Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN, 46227  
(317) 788-3486 [Office]  
(317) 788-3565 [Laboratory]

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(317) 885-5872 [Home]

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#### Section 201.4

### Forensic Pathology

Forensic pathologists are doctors of medicine who have specialized in pathology and sub-specialized in forensic pathology. Forensic pathology refers to the scientific field involved with the analysis of a decedent's body, body tissues, and organs for use in the criminal justice process. A forensic pathologist has training in anatomic pathology as well as one or two years of additional speciality training or experience in forensic pathology.

Pathologists without sub-speciality training or certification in Forensic Pathology may also have a special interest in the field, and may be able to provide many of the same services as a forensic pathologist. In the state of Indiana, all Coroner's autopsies require at a minimum a Board Certified Pathologist. It is necessary for the Coroner to contact pathologists in their jurisdiction to determine if they are board certified, and if they are interested in doing Coroner's autopsies.

**Note:** Coroner's autopsies may be performed by both Board Certified Pathologists and Forensic Pathologists.

#### *Typical Services:*

- Estimate time of death
- Determine manner of death
- Determine cause of death
- Nature and consequences of injuries
- Type of instrument or weapon used
- Whether death resulted from disease or external causes
- Recovery of evidence such as bullets and parts of stabbing instruments that break off in the victim's body
- Determine pre and post-mortem injuries to the body
- Provide expert witness testimony in judicial proceedings

#### **Dr. John Heidingsfelder**

P.O. Box 4439  
Evansville, IN 47724  
(812) 867-0289 [Home]

#### **Dr. Rick L. Hoover**

530 No. LaFayette Blvd.  
South Bend Medical Foundation  
South Bend, IN, 46601  
(219) 234-4176 [Touch 9]

#### **Dr. Scott Wagner**

St Joseph's Medical Center  
Ft Wayne, IN  
(219) 423-2696

#### **Dr. Roland Kohr**

2929 South First Street  
Terre Haute, IN, 47807  
(812) 235-4882

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#### Section 201.5

### Forensic Toxicology

Forensic Toxicology refers to the scientific analysis of body fluids, tissues and organs for use in the criminal justice process. The forensic toxicologist has a Doctorate in Chemistry, Toxicology or a natural science. The forensic toxicologist provides expert witness testimony in judicial trials. The forensic toxicologist also has extensive knowledge in the area of pharmacology (scientific study of drugs and medicine). Their primary focus is in uncovering poisons, drugs, alcohol and other toxicological substances from laboratory analysis of body fluids (blood, urine, semen), related tissues and organs and other biological matter. They can also provide proof for establishing the cause of death when the victim(s) died from carbon monoxide poisoning.

#### *Typical Services:*

- Complete forensic toxicology (blood/fluids/tissue)
- Consulting in forensic toxicology
- Toxicology analysis of drugs and unknown substances

- Provide training in collection, preparation and storage of evidence handled by AIT

**Dr. Michael Evans, Ph.D.**

**Dr. James Kraner, Ph.D.**

**Dr. Daniel McCoy, Ph.D.**

**Ms. Pat Hamby**

American Institute of Toxicology

5601 Fortune Circle South

Indianapolis, IN 46241

(317) 243-3894

*Typical Services:*

- Analytical/forensic toxicology analysis of illicit drugs, pharmaceuticals, carbon monoxide, environmental and volatile agents including alcohol in blood, urine, other body fluids and tissues.
- Consultation and expert witness testimony on forensic and environmental toxicological issues.
- Provide training in collection, preparation and storage of toxicological and pharmaceutical specimens.

**Michael E. Caplis, Ph.D.**

Great Lakes Labs

118 East 8th Street

Michigan City, IN 46360

(219) 872-4922

**Dr. James Klaunig**

Division of Toxicology, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology

Indiana University School of Medicine

635 Barnhill Dr.

Indianapolis, IN, 46202-5120

(317) 274-7824 [Office]

(317) 274-7787 [FAX]

(317) 274-7697 [Laboratory]

### Section 201.6

#### Forensic Radiology

Forensic radiologists are doctors of medicine, specializing in radiology, who sub-specialize in forensic radiology. Forensic radiology refers to the scientific use of radiation (x-rays in medical radiography or fluoroscopy) of a decedent's body or skeletal remains for use in the criminal justice process. Forensic radiologists are board certified and they provide expert testimony at judicial trials. Their primary focus is in determining pre and post-mortem injuries to the skeletal system and determining the age of skeletal remains. They may also be able to determine pre-mortem diseases such as bone cancer.

*Typical Services:*

- Determine the age of skeletal remains
- Determine pre and post-mortem injuries to skeletal remains
- Determine if bones are human or non-human

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### Section 201.7

#### General Forensic Laboratory Services

*Typical Services:*

- Full service crime laboratory with exclusion of toxicology.
- Analysis of following types of evidence: gunshot residues, DNA, foot and fingerprint identification, drugs, blood, semen and glass.
- Crime scene technicians provided upon request.
- A complete list of services will be provided to coroners upon request.

#### Indiana State Police Regional Crime Laboratories

**ISP Headquarters Laboratory**

8500 E. 21st Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46219  
(317) 899-8521  
800-582-8440, Ext. 251

**ISP Evansville Regional Laboratory**

19411 Highway 41 North  
Evansville, IN 47711  
(812) 425-2266  
800-852-3970

**ISP Ft. Wayne Regional Laboratory**

5811 Ellison Road  
Fort Wayne, IN 46804  
(219) 432-8661  
800-552-0976

**ISP Lowell Regional Laboratory**

1550 East 181st Avenue  
Lowell, IN 46356  
(219) 696-6242  
800-552-8917

**Note:** ISP laboratory analysis is free to state law enforcement agencies and coroners. Coroners should contact their regional ISP laboratory on proper evidence shipping and packaging procedures.

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**Section 201.8****Indiana State Coroners Training Board [ISCTB]**

The Indiana State Coroners Training Board [ISCTB] is an excellent source of forensic information and assistance for members of the Indiana State Coroners Association [ISCA]. The members of the ISCTB cooperate closely with the members of the ISCA. ISCTB members have access to the administrators of all state agencies in Indiana. The ISCTB sets standards for continuing education and training for members of the Indiana State Coroners Association. The ISCTB is also a primary source of consultation when coroners incur problems. They have a wealth of experience and knowledge as coroners, and/or as experts in related fields; *e.g.*, law enforcement, and the forensic sciences such as anthropology, odontology and pathology. It is impossible for a guidebook to address every problem or issue that a coroner may face in his/her daily work, therefore, it is strongly suggested that Indiana coroners contact ISCTB members whenever they have a problem related to their duties as coroner. They should also contact the ISCTB if they need a special resource not addressed in this guidebook. Examples of problems in which the ISCTB would be helpful are: (1) finding experts in accident or death scene reconstruction, and (2) coordinating with SEMA and other state agencies during a natural or manmade disaster or emergency.

## Section 202

# Resources Outside Indiana

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**Note:** You should contact the Indiana State Coroners Training Board if you need assistance in finding forensic resources outside the state of Indiana or your jurisdiction. [See Section 201.8.]

### Section 202.1

#### Craniofacial Reconstruction

Craniofacial reconstruction refers to the scientific reconstruction of the craniofacial area by several methods to include: clay modeling, line drawing and computerized drawing. The primary focus of the cranial/facial reconstruction specialist is to recreate as accurately as possible the cranial/facial features of the decedent. These individuals have skills and training in anthropology, art and sculpture. Their primary focus is to use their cranial/facial reconstruction to identify the unknown victim. This area of forensic science also includes skull and photo superimposition and photographic comparison.

*Typical Services:*

- Victim identification, through reconstruction of the victim's cranial/facial area.

**Betty Pat Gatliff**

Skulpture Lab  
1026 Leslie Lane  
Norman, Ok, 72069-4501  
(405) 321-8706

### Section 202.2

#### General Forensic Assistance

*Typical Services:*

- Provide Forensic Assistance in most forensic areas to include: Anthropology, Odontology, Radiology, Pathology.
- Can locate forensic experts not on staff at KSMEO.
- Will assist in natural or man-made disasters in Indiana.

**Mr. David W. Jones, Director**

Kentucky State Medical Examiners Office (KSMEO)  
Central Laboratory Facility  
100 Sower Blvd., Suite 202  
Frankfort, KY, 40601  
(502) 564-4545 [Office]  
(502) 223-2055 [Home]

**Mary Fran Ernst, B.S.**

St. Louis University School of Medicine  
1402 South Grand Boulevard  
St. Louis, MO 63104  
(314) 522-3262 [Ext. 6509]  
(314) 522-0955 [FAX]

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### Section 202.3 General Forensic Analysis

*Typical Services:*

- Photography and Video Enhancement
- Fingerprint Identification
- Serology
- Toxicology
- Psychological Profiling
- DNA Analysis
- Gunshot Residues

**FBI Laboratory Division, Latent Fingerprints**

Room 10955  
FBI Headquarters  
Washington, D.C., 20535  
(202) 324-2163 [Phone manned from 6:20 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.]

*Typical Services:*

- Time since death determinations
- Decomposition Chemistry
- Crime Scene Investigations
- Trace Evidence (Forensic Geology)
- Forensic Anthropology (Skeletal Analysis: age, race, sex, stature, disease, weight)
- Diagenesis (if skeletonized material is of forensic value)

**Lockheed-Martin Energy Systems Inc.****Center for Applied Science and Technology for Law Enforcement**

[CASTLE] [Inquiries should be directed to Mr. Tom McCoig, CASTLE Operations Manager]  
P. O. Box 2009  
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-8206  
(615) 241-2283  
(615) 574-5169 [FAX]

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### Section 202.4 Forensic Pathology

Forensic Pathologists are Doctors of Medicine who have specialized in Pathology and sub-specialized in Forensic Pathology. Forensic pathology refers to the scientific field involved with the analysis of a decedent's body, body tissues, and organs for use in the criminal justice process. A forensic pathologist has training in anatomic pathology as well as one or two years of additional speciality training or experience in Forensic Pathology.

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**Note:** Coroner's autopsies may be performed by both Board Certified Pathologists and Forensic Pathologists.

*Typical Services:*

- Estimate time of death
- Determine manner of death
- Determine cause of death
- Determine pre and post-mortem injuries to the body
- Recovery of evidence such as bullets and parts of stabbing instruments that break off in the victim's body

**Institute of Forensic Medicine, Toxicology and Criminalistics**

Hamilton County Coroner's Office  
3159 Eden Avenue  
Cincinnati, OH, 45219  
(513) 221-4542

Department of Forensic Pathology  
Regional Medical Center  
900 Hospital Drive  
Madisonville, KY, 42431  
(502) 825-5140

**Dr. Mark LeVaughn**

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**Section 202.5**

**Forensic Odontology**

Forensic odontology (dentistry) refers to scientific analysis of dental evidence by licensed individuals with dental degrees (D.D.S. or D.M.D.) for use in the criminal justice system. Their primary focus is the identification of individuals through analysis of dental evidence. This is often accomplished by comparison of the decedent's dental structure with existing dental records. They also provide scientific analysis of bite marks in cases involving homicides, child and elderly abuse, and certain cases involving sexual aberrations. They are most noted for their skill in identifying victims from mass disasters.

*Typical Services:*

- Victim identification
- Bite mark analysis

**Dr. Mark Bernstein**

Forensic Odontologist  
University of Louisville Dental School  
Louisville, KY 40292  
(502) 852-5654

**Dr. Allan J. Warnick**

31632 Schoolcraft Road  
Livonia, MI 48150

**Dr. Elizabeth M. Robinson, D.D.S.**

Cuyahoga County Coroner's Office  
2121 Adelbert Road  
Cleveland, OH 44106

**Dr. Jack P. Kenney, D.D.S., M.S.**

101 South Washington Street  
Park Ridge, IL 60068



**Section 202.6**  
**Forensic Anthropology**

Forensic anthropology refers to the application of physical anthropology for use in the criminal justice process. Forensic anthropologists identify and obtain information from the analysis of skeletal remains. Through analysis of skeletal remains they are able to: distinguish human from animal bones, determine a victim's age and physical characteristics, distinguish between pre and post-mortem injuries to skeletal remains and determine the age of the bones themselves.

*Typical Services:*

- Assist in victim identification: may determine age, sex, size and race
- Determine if skeletal remains are human or animal
- Determine the age of the skeletal remains

## Section 203

# Organizations and Associations

This section contains a list of forensic associations. Many of these organizations have open memberships, so that persons from all career fields may join the association. Many of the associations will assist coroners or law enforcement agencies in contacting forensic experts who are members of the association.

### **American Board of Forensic Anthropology**

Frank Saul, President  
Lucas County Coroners office  
2595 Arlington Ave.  
Toledo, OH 43614-2674  
[www.csuchico.edu/anth](http://www.csuchico.edu/anth)

Houston, TX, 70063

### **Association of Firearms and Toolmark Examiners**

(AFTE)  
P.O. Box 999  
Richmond, VA, 23208  
Contact: Ann Jones, Membership Secretary  
[www.afte.org](http://www.afte.org)

### **Botanical Society of America**

Patricia G. Gensel, President  
Department of Biology CB#3280, UNC  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3280  
[www.botany.org](http://www.botany.org)

### **American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors- Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD-LAB)**

146 Nicholas Drive  
Garner, NC, 27529  
Contact: Ralph "Bud" Keaton, Executive Assistant

### **International Association for Craniofacial Identification**

c/o Dr. M. Yasar Iscan  
Chair, Department of Anthropology  
Florida Atlantic University  
Boca Raton, FL, 33431-0991  
[www.forensicartist.com/IACI/index.html](http://www.forensicartist.com/IACI/index.html)

### **National Forensic Science Technology Center**

Mike Sheppo, President  
P.O. Box 2710  
Largo, FL 33779  
[www.nfstc.org](http://www.nfstc.org)

### **American College of Forensic Examiners**

2750 East Sunshine  
Springfield, MO 65804  
[www.acfe.com](http://www.acfe.com)

### **Forensic Science Society**

Professor Brian Caddy, President  
Clarke House  
18 A Mount Parade  
Harrogate, N. Yorkshire HG 1 1BX, U.K.  
[www.forensic-science-society.org.uk](http://www.forensic-science-society.org.uk)

### **American Board of Forensic Odontology**

Michael Tabor, President  
c/o Forensic Sciences Foundation  
P.O. Box 669  
Colorado Springs, CO 80901-0669  
[www.abfo.org](http://www.abfo.org)

### **International Association for Identification**

Robert Sanders, President  
2535 Pilot Knob Road Suite 117  
Mendota Heights, MN 55120-1120  
[www.theiai.org](http://www.theiai.org)

### **American Society of Forensic Odontology**

Dr. Jeff Burkes, D.D.S., President  
[www.asfo.org](http://www.asfo.org)

### **National Association of Medical Examiners**

1402 South Grand Boulevard  
St. Louis, MO 63104  
[www.thename.org](http://www.thename.org)

### **Entomological Society of America**

Paula G. Lettice, Director  
9301 Annapolis Road Suite 300  
Lanham, MD 20706-3115  
[www.entsoc.org](http://www.entsoc.org)

### **Mycological Society of America**

Orson K. Miller, Jr., President  
Department of Biology  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
Blacksburg, VA 24061  
[www.erin.utoronto.ca/~w3msa](http://www.erin.utoronto.ca/~w3msa)

### **American Academy of Forensic Sciences**

c/o Forensic Sciences Foundation  
P.O. Box 669  
Colorado Springs, CO 80901-0669  
[www.aafs.org](http://www.aafs.org)

### **American Board of Forensic Document Examiners**

(ABFDE)  
7887 San Felipe  
Suite 122

### **Society of Forensic Toxicologists**

Michael L. Smith, Ph.D., President  
P.O. Box 5543  
Mesa, AZ 85211

www.soft-tox.org

www.cap.org

**The American Board of Pathology**

P.O. Box 25915  
Tampa, FL, 33622-5915

**Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP)**

6825 16th Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20306-6000  
www.afip.org

**College of American Pathologists**

325 Waukegan Road  
Northfield, IL, 60093-2750

## Section 204

# Coroners and Other Agencies and Personnel

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### Section 204.1

#### Law Enforcement Agencies

The key elements in a relationship with all law enforcement agencies are *cooperation* and *independence*. These two elements should be of importance to both parties if they wish to conclude each death investigation in a correct and satisfactory manner. The benefits of cooperation for both parties should be self-evident. Law enforcement personnel have, or have access to, resources and training that are generally not available to a coroner. Thus, the coroner benefits from a cooperative relationship. The coroner's expeditious and correct ruling as to the cause and manner of death are essential to the performance of law enforcement agencies. Normally, once a coroner determines no crime has been committed, law enforcement agencies are released from any formal involvement in a death case. So it is to their advantage to be cooperative with the coroner.

Investigative *independence* is paramount for both parties. A coroner's determination of the manner of death must be *independent* of all outside influence. Generally, there will be no conflict in determining the cause or manner of death. However, occasionally conflict will arise between law enforcement personnel and coroners. For example, the law enforcement personnel may have information not generally known to the public about an individual. [This information may, and sometimes does, effect their judgment in a case.] If conflict does occur, and there is the slightest doubt in your mind, seek another opinion; *e.g.*, the Indiana State Coroners Training Board (See Section 201.8). There is no insult, or danger, in asking for another opinion in a complex death case. However, serious complications can occur from a hasty or incorrect determination of the cause and manner of death. (**NOTE:** There is no immediate need to publicly state you have asked for assistance. Such assistance can be kept confidential until you have reached a decision with which you are comfortable.)

**Note:** The Indiana State Coroners Training Board members have a wealth of experience and knowledge. It is unlikely you will incur a problem that someone on the ISCTB has not faced at some time in his/her career.

In the unlikely event that you do incur a problem that is new to the ISCTB members, they have access to the resources that can assist you in successfully resolving it.

#### § 204.1.1

##### Memorandum of Understanding [MOU]

It is suggested that shortly after assuming office a coroner establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

with the senior official of each law enforcement agency, hospital, nursing home, correctional institution and the County Emergency Management Director within his/her jurisdiction. The MOU should spell out the duties and assignments of personnel from those agencies and the coroner's office at a death investigation scene. While it is impossible to list every problem or contingency that may be faced by individual coroners, it is suggested that MOUs should address at a minimum the following areas:

**Law enforcement agencies:** A major issue with law enforcement agencies is the coordination of death scene investigations. Some of the areas the MOU should address are: notification procedures, person-in-charge of the death investigation scene, photographer, sketch preparer, evidence collector and recorder, who will obtain search warrants, communications with concerned agencies, contact with representatives of news agencies, coordination of multi-jurisdictional death investigations and other concerns that might pertain to a specific coroner's or law enforcement agency's duties or jurisdiction.

**Other agencies:** A MOU with the senior official of a hospital, nursing home, or correctional institution should address the following areas: notification procedures, types of deaths that are considered to be coroner's cases, contact person(s), and the legal statutes that apply to notifying a coroner of a death. Failing to notify a coroner in some death cases can be a Class D felony. It is also important to note the benefits of a coroner's investigation to these agencies. For example, a coroner's investigation could protect the concerned agency from an unwarranted charge of "cover up" by the news media or a lawsuit from uninformed family members.

**Note:** See Section 104.3 Coroner's Investigation of Death, Section 104.6 Failure to Notify Coroner of Suspicious Death and Section 106.5 Deaths in Mines for appropriate statutes pertaining to coroner's cases.

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#### **Section 204.2**

### **Prosecutors, Defense Counsel, and Judges**

The key to a relationship with prosecutors, defense counsel, and judges is cooperation and openness. It is doubtful you will have much outside contact with attorneys for the defense or judges. In some cases the defense attorney may request copies of your records pertaining to a specific death case. In the courtroom you are required to be truthful to all questions from either the defense attorney or judge.

Your contact with prosecutors may be more frequent as their office will be concerned with any criminal case you have. However, your personal interaction with the prosecutor or prosecutor's office will be generally of the same nature as that of the defense attorney and judge.

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#### **Section 204.3**

### **Correctional Institutions**

Cooperation is the key for coroners and personnel from correctional institutions. Correctional institutions will benefit from a cooperative relationship with your office. The action, or inaction, of correctional personnel are open to public scrutiny and criticism. Any death that occurs inside the walls of a correctional facility is subject to question, unless it results from carrying out a death penalty order. If there is nothing to hide, correctional facility administrators should want to be cooperative with the coroner. Your death investigation and determination of the cause and manner of death can eliminate, or greatly hinder, any criticism that might be raised by members of the general public or news media. Ultimately, correctional administrators have more to gain than lose from a cooperative and open relationship with the coroner.

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#### **Section 204.4**

### **Crime Laboratory Personnel**

Crime laboratories are service oriented agencies. Their personnel provide that service. The major focus of your relationship with these personnel is twofold. One, you must insure that you collect, package and preserve your evidence in the correct manner. Two, you must insure the request for laboratory analysis and chain-of-custody documents are completed correctly. You can save time and effort by calling laboratory personnel for directions, if there is any doubt as to the correct submission of evidence to a laboratory.

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The major purpose of crime laboratories and their personnel is to provide correct and timely reports of analysis on evidence received from whatever agency. If time is of the essence on a specific case you should telephonically contact crime laboratory personnel. This can alleviate potential conflict because they can estimate how long it will take to process your evidence. If the delay is excessive you can seek the services of another laboratory. Cost may be an important factor in your decision. You will have to determine if paying \$50.00 to \$100.00 for an analysis that will take three weeks is better than receiving a free analysis in four weeks.

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#### **Section 204.5**

### **Health Care Professionals**

Coroners and Health Care Professionals need to have a cooperative relationship. It would behoove a coroner to establish Memorandum of Understandings(MOU), similar to those with law enforcement agencies, with Health Care Facility Administrators. The MOU should address notification procedures, contact person(s), handling of news media and other issues that may vary from one Health Care Facility to another or from one coroner to another. A well thought out MOU can go a long way in preventing unnecessary personality rifts or misunderstandings. It is suggested you stress the mutual benefit to the concerned facility and the coroner. For instance, the news media is always ready to pounce on a story that has overtones of health care abuses or cover-ups. Speedy notification of the coroner and a thorough evaluation of the death should eliminate adverse speculation by the news media. Most reputable health care administrators should be happy to cooperate with the coroner in setting up a mutually rewarding MOU.

#### **Section 204.6**

### **Insurance Representatives**

Coroners should have a cooperative relationship with insurance representatives. Normally, your contact with insurance representatives should be infrequent; however, certain death cases may result in inquiries. For example, accidents, suicides and alcohol or drug related deaths may have an interest to insurance companies. This is particularly true where life insurance policies are involved, as some policies do not pay if the death is due to a suicide and others pay double or triple for accidental deaths. Also, some accidental deaths can result in a law suit, such as a vehicle accident where drug or alcohol use is involved. Natural deaths may also result in an inquiry about items included, or omitted from, the death certificate

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#### **Section 204.7**

### **News Media**

The news media can be a coroner's greatest enemy or friend. You must understand that the media may become interested in any case handled by a coroner. News media personnel will report on any death that has "news" potential. This potential can involve routine natural deaths or accidents involving prominent citizens. It can also involve crimes of passion, or crimes involving high profile individuals as either suspects or victims. You must realize that the news media will report on the death with or without your assistance. If media personnel cannot get an "official" view, they will publish a story from other sources. This latter approach may, or may not, adequately or accurately address the issue.

The best method of dealing with the media is to establish a positive, personal relationship. Such a relationship can save all concerned from potential embarrassment. The key element in establishing a positive relationship with the media is to tell the truth. A lack of truth, or the perception thereof, can be detrimental to your dealing with the media and the trust placed in your office by the public. In fact, failing to tell the truth may create more publicity than telling the truth.

The establishment of a cooperative relationship with news media personnel can be mutually beneficial to both parties. If you have more than one media source in your county, treat them all the same. To do otherwise

may create an unwelcome and unnecessary enemy.

You should establish policy guidelines for dealing with the media, that is clear to everyone in the coroner's office. For example, you may not want anyone talking to the media but yourself, or you may want to designate someone to act as a public information source for your office. Either method is fine, as long as you promulgate an appropriately worded guideline that clearly states your policy. **Caution!** It is best to take a "No comment." approach until you have all the facts in a case. Media personnel may pressure you for a statement; however, the public and family will be more appreciative if you wait until you have all the facts before giving a statement to the news media.

In summary:

1. Tell the truth.
2. Know publishers, editors and reporters.
3. Do not play favorites.
4. Establish policy guidelines.

**Note:** See Section 103.3 for specific guidance on public access to Coroner's Records.

## Section 204.8 Disasters and Emergencies

**Note:** It is suggested the Indiana State Coroners Training Board be contacted for assistance when you are dealing with a disaster or emergency described in this section. (**See also**, Section 201.8, Indiana State Coroners Training Board).

A disaster is defined as any manmade or natural event in which there is significant property damage or the loss of multiple lives. Some examples are commercial or military aircraft accidents, train accidents, explosions, fires, tornadoes, earthquakes, and exposure to hazardous materials (chemical and radiological substances).

No coroner in Indiana has the resources or personnel to handle disasters independently. However, there are a number of agencies that can, and will, assist in the event of a disaster. The Indiana State Police [ISP] and the State Emergency Management Agency [SEMA] are prepared to provide assistance.

### § 204.8.1 State Emergency Management Agency [SEMA]

SEMA 24-hour Emergency Operations Center (EOC):

Room E208, Indiana Government Center

302 West Washington Street

Indianapolis, IN 46204

(317) 233-1169 or (317) 232-5392

- Coordinates with a number of agencies including FAA, FBI, Civil Defense, Indiana State Department of Health, State Fire Marshal and Indiana National Guard
- Handles coordinated news releases and press conferences
- Provides status maps and logs events as they occur
- Field Coordination
  - Establish a Mobile Command Center
  - Furnish Equipment
    - (1) Portable radios
    - (2) Mobile radios
    - (3) Handheld radios
    - (4) Emergency generators
    - (5) Emergency lighting
  - Emergency vehicles
  - Temporary morgues

- Additional Hospital Services
- Handle relatives and family members
- Other equipment and services as needed
- Immediate Action:
  - Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD)
  - Emergency Response Team (ERT)
  - Scuba Divers
  - Helicopters and fixed wing aircraft
  - Enforcement and command personnel for scene control and coordination

**Note:** Coroners should contact SEMA through their local Emergency Management Director during normal office hours. SEMA's webpage is at <http://www.IN.gov/sema/>.

**§ 204.8.2 Military Department of Indiana [MDI]**

2002 South Holt Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46241-4064  
(317) 247-3204  
(317) 247-3173 [FAX]

The Military Department of Indiana [MDI] provides assistance when the disaster involves military aircraft or installations. The MDI will secure the scene of a military accident. MDI personnel perform duties and tasks as requested by or through SEMA. MDI is called into action by the Governor of Indiana.

Normally, an aircraft crash or other disaster occurring on a military installation in Indiana would be under the jurisdiction of the appropriate Department of Defense(DOD), Disaster Response Agency. However, the DOD can and does request that the MDI respond to the scene due to its close proximity to the disaster area. Generally, when DOD personnel arrive, MDI is relieved of responsibility for the scene.

**Note:** MDI personnel work directly for SEMA when called into action by the Governor. Therefore, MDI personnel will only respond to requests for action from SEMA personnel at the disaster scene. This is done to minimize confusion at the scene. MDI will respond to civilian aircraft crashes if activated by the Governor.

**Note:** The Indiana Funeral Directors Association offers temporary morgues, chemicals, tables, and other equipment as well as assistance in the setup and layout of morgues. The Association will also provide qualified Mortuary Disaster Coordination. The National Funeral Directors Association can also provide containerized temporary morgues with personnel to staff them. In case of need or for further information, contact the ISCTB.