



Walworth County Medical Examiner's Office

Winter 2019

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Walworth County Medical Examiner's Office

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Deputy Medical Examiners

Gary Rowland, RN
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Kimberly Rossi
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Alan Boyes
Suzanne Neumann
Louis Denko

To report a death,
please call:
(262) 741-4401

Meet our Newest Deputy Medical Examiner



- Exciting Changes for 2020 -

As 2019 comes to a close, Walworth County's contract with the Waukesha County Medical Examiner sunsets on December 31, 2019. We wanted to take this time to thank Waukesha County for their assistance during our transition from a Coroner system to a Medical Examiner system. During this time we have secured and trained a team of death investigators to cover the 24/7 needs of this office. We have also established policies and procedures which are consistent with the national standard for death investigation, and are now ready to bring all of the office functions in-house, with autopsy services moving to Milwaukee County.

Milwaukee County is pleased to become our partner and help our office serve our community. Their Medical Examiner, Dr. Brian Peterson, foresees that Walworth County will see improved service from his staff of more than 30, including 6 forensic pathologists, and its own toxicology laboratory. Milwaukee County anticipates that their service will be quicker with results being returned more efficiently.

What day-to-day changes can you expect? Not too many! The office phone will now be answered locally, instead of being routed elsewhere. The same staff will be responding to scenes, and assisting families and funeral homes. While my title will be changed to Medical Examiner, my responsibilities will remain the same. This office will now sign death certificates for those cases where we have accepted jurisdiction. We also intend to post a part-time Chief Deputy Medical Examiner position for continuity of operations in the case of an emergency. External examinations will be performed by this office; all autopsies will be performed by Milwaukee County. We will continue to partner with our local funeral homes for transports. As Milwaukee County will not routinely inventory our decedent's personal property, we will be working with our law enforcement partners to remove and secure those items for safekeeping until the next-of-kin is located.

Milwaukee County welcomes any law enforcement agency to attend any autopsy being investigated by your agency as needed for your investigation. That being said, your attendance is completely optional. If you are unable to attend, or if attendance is not necessary for your investigation, we can burn a CD of the autopsy photos when necessary. As we do now, once the autopsy is complete, our staff will contact your department and relay autopsy findings. Once the cause of death is determined, we will relay that information as well.

And finally, we would like to thank you for your continued support of our office. We sincerely enjoy working with each of you to serve the decedent, their family, and our community. We are very excited to start this next chapter of our office!

JOIN US IN A WARM WELCOME TO SUZANNE NEUMANN!

I am currently a Firefighter/Paramedic with Bloomfield Genoa City Fire & Rescue. I have been in the Walworth County fire service for 15 years. My background started in fire and forensic investigations in college and includes several years in law enforcement. I am excited to continue to build my investigative knowledge working for the Medical Examiner's Office. I live in Elkhorn with my husband and son. In the spare time I do have, I love to craft making greeting cards and signs.



Calling All Investigators

The MEO and the Whitewater Police Department are hosting a two-day death investigation training March 24th and 25th at the Whitewater Innovation Center.

We need both presenters and attendees!

Topics are expected to include evidence collection, photography, artifacts of death, preservation letters, water-related fatalities, forensic anthropology, infant deaths, and much more.

The cost per person will be \$20 for one day or \$30 for two days (covers lunch and snacks).

For more information or to reserve your spot to attend or present, call Gina Carver at (262) 741-4495.

Here's a hint:
Case going for Autopsy?
Secure the electronics if possible!



The phone can always be released after toxicology results are in – but we never know what surprises lie in the drug and alcohol testing. The majority of our autopsy cases have medications / illicit drugs / alcohol present on board at death.

Another helpful tool can be laptops and tablets. A review of a decedent's search history can show searches for "ways to commit suicide" or include a note with intent.



BEST PRACTICES FOR TALKING WITH FAMILIES AFTER SUICIDE

With winter descending upon us and daylight lacking, it can be hard for everyone to stay on top of good mental health. A few national boards got together and created a best practice guide to speaking with families after they have suffered a loss.

Here's a few hints we appreciated:

- We may never know the exact reason(s) why it happened. Let the family know it is normal to ask "why" for as long as they need.
- Survivors of suicide loss almost always experience a deep sense of guilt. We can let families know this is common, and it may help to explain that there are many factors that contribute to a person taking their life. No one person or event causes suicide.

Instead of saying this:

- Committed suicide
- Unsuccessful suicide
- Completed suicide

We can say this:

- Died by suicide
- Attempted suicide
- Took his/her own life

For more info and resources, see mecrecs.org

They have helpful hints when speaking to families and the media!

2013 – 2019 Drug-Related Deaths

	Total # drug-related deaths	By Substance (alone or in combination)			
		Total Fentanyl related	Total Heroin related (no fentanyl)	Opiate Medications (no fentanyl)	Other Drugs or Medications
<i>*cases still pending</i>					
2013	18	1	7	8	2
2014	14	1	3	9	1
2015	23	1	6	11	5
2016	22	4	5	10	3
2017	17	5	2	6	4
2018	22	10	0	7	5
2019*	17	8	2	2	5