

Washington County, Pennsylvania

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Policy Revision for Unclaimed, Abandoned and Indigent Bodies

The Washington County Coroner's Office is updating this policy in order to cope with an overwhelming increase in the number of deceased individuals without family, prearrangements or the financial ability to provide for final disposition (burial or cremation.)

In such cases, Pennsylvania Statute places the responsibility for disposition with the Coroner.

These individuals are either donated to scientific/educational organizations or cremated at the expense of the County. Washington County had 17 such cases in 2016.

Going forward, the Washington County Coroner's Office is instituting a 15-day policy, starting on the day of death. During this period we will make every reasonable attempt to locate the deceased's family. If we are unable to do so, on the 16th day, the Coroner shall pursue and oversee final disposition at the County's expense.

The cremains of the deceased will remain under the custody of the Coroner.

In the event that a legal family member comes forward and wishes to receive the cremains, this family member must first reimburse the County of Washington for the costs incurred.

S. Timothy Warco

S. Timothy Warco, Coroner