

Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1
936-788-8374

Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2
936-538-3788

Justice of the Peace, Pct. 3
936-539-7803

Justice of the Peace, Pct. 4
281-577-8970

Justice of the Peace, Pct. 5
936-539-7806



Main phone number: (936) 538-3791

**Phone calls are answered during regular business hours between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday with the exception of Montgomery County holidays.*

Please leave a voicemail after hours; someone will return your call within 24 hours.

Contact Information for Families:

For community resource information, contact:

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office
Victim Services Coordinator
(936) 760-5705

Conroe Police Department
Crime Victim Liaison
(936) 522-3231

Texas Department of Public Safety
Victim Support Services
(979) 776-3121

Available Resources:

If you are in emotional distress and need to talk with someone, call the
24-hour Crisis Hotline:

1-800-659-6994 or Text: HOME to 741741

The Montgomery County Forensic Services Department provides autopsy services for deaths occurring in Montgomery County. The Montgomery County Forensic Services Department is authorized by the Justice of the Peace under Texas law (Article 49 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure) to determine the cause and manner of death for individuals who die suddenly, unexpectedly, under suspicious circumstances, from drug or chemical toxicity, or any type of injury.

Frequently Asked Questions

Family information and helpful phone numbers to assist families following the death of a loved one

Montgomery County Forensic Services Department

**5101 North Parkway
Conroe TX, 77303
Phone: 936-538-3791
Fax: 936-538-3794
email: forensics@mctx.org**

Forensic Services Department

Where is my loved one being taken?

Your loved one is being taken to the Montgomery County Forensic Services Department in Conroe, TX.

Who is the legal next-of-kin?

The Forensic Services Department follows the governance of the Texas Health & Safety Code Section 711.002 to determine the legal next-of-kin for the purposes of disposition of remains. That law outlines the following persons in order of succession:

1. A person designated in a written instrument signed by the decedent;
2. The decedent's surviving spouse or common-law spouse;
3. Any one of the decedent's surviving adult children;
4. Either one of the decedent's surviving parents;
5. Any one of the decedent's surviving adult siblings; or
6. Any adult person in the next degree of kinship in the order named by law to inherit the estate of the decedent.

What should the legal next-of-kin do now?

The legal next-of-kin must choose a funeral home and notify the funeral director that the death is being handled by the Montgomery County Forensic Services Department. Your funeral director will help you obtain any personal property found on your loved one and obtain a death certificate. A release form must be signed by the legal next-of-kin. If not available at the funeral home, the form can be found on our website: http://www.mctx.org/departments/departments_d_-_f/forensics/index.php

Can I come to the Forensic Services Department to view or identify my loved one?

The funeral home is the setting to view your loved one's remains and all viewings should be arranged through your selected funeral director. We do not arrange viewings at the Forensic Services Department. In general, identifications are made by circumstantial evidence, and may be confirmed by scientific methods, such as fingerprints and through comparison of radiographs (x-rays, MRIs, CT scans).

What type of examination is being performed for my loved one?

Each case is unique and is evaluated on an individual basis. Two types of examinations are performed at the Forensic Services Department by a medical doctor who specializes in Forensic Pathology: external examinations and complete autopsies. External examinations are performed to confirm outward physical signs of disease and to verify the absence or existence of injury. Complete autopsies include an external examination as well as an internal examination. The internal examination is performed to determine or confirm internal physical injury or illness, effects of disease, or in some instances, to collect evidence.

Do you have my loved one's personal property?

Personal property not required for examination as part of a law enforcement investigation will be released to the funeral home selected by the family or to the legal next-of-kin (must provide an ID).

When will my loved one be released to my chosen funeral home?

In most cases, the examination will be completed and the decedent available for release to your selected funeral home within 24 - 48 hours of arrival to the Forensic Services Department. However, some examinations require more time. Autopsies are typically performed Monday – Friday.

Will I have to pay for the autopsy or external examination?

There is no charge to a family for an examination performed by the Department for a death that is within the jurisdiction of the Justice of the Peace.

How long will it take to determine the cause and manner of death?

The time required to investigate and to determine the cause and manner of death varies depending on what testing, specialized medical consultation, or additional investigation is required. Some cases can be classified at the time of autopsy, some in a few weeks, but other cases may take several months.

How can I receive death benefits if my loved one's cause and manner of death is pending?

Issuing a death certificate (pending or otherwise) is the responsibility of the person in charge of interment, usually the family's chosen funeral home. The law requires that the death certificate be filed "not later than the 10th day after the date of death" (Texas Health and Safety Code Sections 193.002-193.003). "Pending" is a temporary classification of the cause and manner of death that is assigned when further information or testing is required to classify the cause and manner of death. Once the cause and manner of death are determined, the Justice of the Peace office will file an amendment to the pending death certificate with the state registrar. The family can then order a certified copy of the amended death certificate through their selected funeral home or directly from the Texas Department of State Health Services Vital Statistics Unit. In the meantime, as the investigation is progressing, a "pending" death certificate will be available. The "pending" death certificate is still legal proof of death. Some insurance companies and financial institutions may accept a pending death certificate for the purposes of paying benefits or handling other accounts, however, varies based on each family's specific institution, account/s or circumstance/s.

How can I obtain a death certificate?

You may obtain a death certificate through your selected funeral home or from the local registrar designated to the area where the death occurred. The Forensic Services Department does not issue death certificates. The Justice of the Peace is responsible for completing only the medical portion of the death certificate, while the funeral home is responsible for completing the demographic portion and filing the completed certificate with the Texas Department of State Health Services.

How do I obtain an autopsy report?

The autopsy report must be requested from the Justice of the Peace that ordered the autopsy.