



CORONER & MEDICAL EXAMINER CERTIFICATION & ACCREDITATION STANDARDS



The Washington Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners is committed to excellence in death investigation practices as it is essential to law enforcement, our legal system, and surviving family members.

In Washington State, the elected role of County Coroner requires no experience. Training for elected County Coroners is available, but unlike the expectations for law enforcement and firefighters, there is no set timeline or expectation for completion of basic training.

WACME is asking the Legislature to join them in raising the expectations for training to ensure the integrity of the medicolegal system, to increase reliability, and to ensure that funds are spent as intended.



Since 2012, WACME has provided a basic death investigation course that meets certification requirements.



Since then, 35 of 39 counties have participated in this training.



In 2019, the Legislature increased funding for updating this basic training to meet accreditation standards.



With funding and updated training in place, there should be an expectation that all Coroners complete it.

Training is a necessary, but without a requirement to ensure that Coroner and Medical Examiners offices statewide minimum basic standards of practice, there is no incentive to meet the professional standards that are essential for law enforcement, the legal system, and for families dealing with the loss of a loved one.

A Cultural Change is Needed.

The proposal will create a culture change with an expectation of the highest levels of professional standards within the medicolegal community that is backed up by expectation of meeting such standards from legislature and Washington residents.

Jennifer Wallace,
Executive Director
360.489.3042
Jennifer@countyofficials.org

Timothy Grisham,
Deputy Director
360.489.3044
Tim@countyofficials.org

 @WACOfficials

 countyofficials.org