

# Medical Examiner

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## Mission

*The Kent County Medical Examiner's Office serves the community by investigating sudden, unexpected, violent, suspicious, or unnatural deaths. It is with a true sense of civic duty and public service that we conduct our death investigations for the community.*

## Overview

The office of the Medical Examiner provides forensic investigation of all suspicious deaths, as well as all deaths that take place unexpectedly or without the attendance of a physician. Activities include autopsies, establishment of the cause and manner of death, death scene investigations, and court testimony. The Medical Examiner is also authorized to issue cremation permits as well as disinterment and reinterment permits.

## Significant Accomplishments

- Accreditation - Continued online full accreditation effective 3/21/16-1/1/21. "Kent County Medical Examiner's Office is one of the best medical examiner offices in the country."
- Gift of Life - Kent County Medical Examiner's office has the highest number of referrals, tissue donors and eye donors statewide for 2016.
- Kent County now has two Medical Examiner Investigators who are certified American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators.

## Strategic Goals

- To investigate sudden and unexpected deaths. (Safe Community, High Quality of Life)
- To determine cause and manner of death. (Safe Community, High Quality of Life)
- To provide prompt response to calls and scene investigations. (Safe Community, High Quality of Life)

**DEPARTMENT: HEALTH DEPARTMENT MEDICAL EXAMINER**

**Department Mission Statement:**

*The Kent County Health Department shall be responsive to the community health needs of the citizens of Kent County by continually and diligently endeavoring to prevent disease, prolong life, and promote the public health.*

**Service Area: Administration**

**Service Area Mission Statement:**

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**Goals**

- To investigate sudden and unexpected deaths
- To determine cause and manner of deaths
- To provide prompt response to calls and scene investigations

**Objectives**

- To complete 98% of the accepted case reports within two months from the time of notification/death
- To perform complete autopsies within three months of death
- To conduct scene investigations within one hour of notification

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Outcomes</b>				
Percentage of case reports completed within 2 months of death	98.65%	98.00%/ 98.55%	98.00%/ 99.05%	98.00%
Percentage of autopsies completed within 3 months of death	77.30%	95.00%/ 77.41%	95.00%/ 78.84%	95.00%
Percentage of scene investigations conducted within 1 hour of notification	94.40%	100.00%/ 92.46%	95.00%/ 95.65%	95.00%

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Efficiencies</b>				
Average cost per case of death investigated	\$1,129	\$1,152/ \$1,173	\$1,225/ \$1,180	\$1,080

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Outputs</b>				
Number of case reports completed within 2 months of death	1,093	1,120/ 1,157	1,120/ 1,144	1,150
Number of accepted Medical Examiner cases	1,108	1,120/ 1,174	1,120/ 1,155	1,150
Number of autopsies performed	326	300/ 360	300/ 345	330