

Fiscal Year 2012/2013 Budget Program Description

CORONER

Department Mission Statement:

The McHenry County Coroner's Office exists to provide the people of McHenry County a thorough investigation in the event of a death. This investigation may include, but is not limited to autopsy, toxicology tests, metabolic studies, x-rays, entomological studies and personal and physical, as well as psychiatric history. These procedures are done to insure that the facts surrounding the death are as complete as possible so as to arrive at the cause and manner of death.

Program Description (By OCA Code)	Customers Served	Mandated Service	Funding Source
310001 Every Coroner, as soon as he or she knows, or is informed, that a dead body is found, or lying within his/her county, whose death is suspected of being a sudden or violent death, a maternal or fetal death, a death where circumstances are suspicious, obscure or otherwise unexplained, a death where alcohol or drugs may have been a contributory cause or where the decedent was not attended by a licensed physician, shall go to the place where the dead body is and take charge of same. The Coroner shall make a preliminary investigation into the circumstances of the death	The deceased and their families, law enforcement and the judicial system	55ILCS 3-3001 to 3-3039 410ILCS to 505/0.01	General Fund
MANDATORY DUTIES Blood Specimens: In cases of motor vehicle crashes, the Coroner's Office must draw a blood specimen from the driver, if they are deceased, within a reasonable time period following the crash. This specimen is to be tested for drugs and alcohol. Autopsy: A complete autopsy must be performed on all children under the age of two who die, and on anyone, regardless of age, who dies while in police custody.			
DISCRETIONARY FUNCTIONS: Autopsy: An autopsy should be done whenever the circumstances or cause of death are unclear. Inquest: In cases where the circumstances of death are unclear, an Inquest may be held to determine the manner of death. Toxicology: Blood and other body fluids and tissue specimens should be drawn whenever the cause of death is unclear or the circumstances surrounding the death are subject to legal action.			
Scientific Study: X-rays, entomological, odontological and anthropological studies should be done to provide scientific findings as to the circumstances surrounding the death. Prevention: We try to prevent needless death through education. We go into the schools and give talks to Health and Government classes about the workings of the Coroner's Office and bring drug prevention and safety issues into the program. We also participate in prom crash re-enactments to reinforce the danger of drug and alcohol abuse. We also have a Deputy on the Suicide Prevention Task Force. This participation will hopefully reduce the number of suicides we are seeing by informing the public of the signs of suicide and hot line numbers to call for assistance. Education: We co-sponsor training programs for paramedics, police officers and other emergency workers to enhance current job knowledge and skills. We also speak to public groups and fraternal organizations about the workings of the Coroner's Office. Support Service: We maintain support systems through our office and make referrals to professional and mental health workers for family members of the deceased individual. This helps ease them through the grieving process.			