

Washington County, Pennsylvania

S. TIMOTHY WARCO
CORONER
TELEPHONE
(724) 228-6785
FAX
(724) 228-6745



STEVEN TOPRANI
SOLICITOR
TELEPHONE
(412) 243-1600
EMAIL
stoprani@law-dmc.com

100 West Beau Street, Suite 203
Washington, Pennsylvania 15301

MEMORANDUM

From: S. Timothy Warco, Washington County Coroner

Date: November 1, 2017

Re: Unclaimed Body Removal and Storage

Pennsylvania Statute places the responsibility for removal of bodies deemed unclaimed with the County Coroner. Unclaimed bodies are defined as those individuals who have outlived their next of kin, who remain unclaimed by next of kin, or those who have next of kin who refuse responsibility for the individual's final disposition for any reason.

As these types of calls increase, an undue burden is placed on the County and ultimately the taxpayers due to the cost incurred in responding, transporting and securing the remains of the deceased individual.

In these situations, and when the case doesn't meet the other jurisdictional criteria of a Coroner's case, when a responsible party is identified, the cost of this office's response will be passed along to that party.

These parties include but are not limited to: next of kin stating their intent to abandon, those who refuse to respond to the scene of death upon notification, those who refuse to make disposition arrangements in a timely manner, nursing homes, personal care homes, long-term care facilities and hospice facilities who fail to ensure final arrangements are in place.

All associated fees shall be passed along as they are billed to this office and with no markup or interest. An administrative fee not to exceed \$35.00 may be levied.