

### **Scene Cleaning Services**

Horsley Specialties, Inc.  
218.236.5081

Jet-Way Multiple Services  
701.282.2356

Legends Technical Services  
701.271.6779

Northland Environmental  
701.471.0593

OSI Environmental  
1.800.777.8542

Safety-Kleen  
701.237.9070

Service Master of FM  
701.478.9968

ServPro of Fargo  
701.232.2455

Trio Environmental Consulting  
701.492.9224

Wenck Associates  
701.297.9600

Western Plains Consulting  
701.221.3113

### **Funeral Homes**

Boulger Funeral Home  
701.237.6441

Hanson-Runsvold Funeral Home  
701.232.3222

West Funeral Home  
701.282.6699

We do not endorse one service provider over another.  
We provide this information for research purposes only.

# Cass County Coroner's Office

**We understand that this is a very difficult time in your life.**

**We stand committed to assist you in any way we can.**

Case # \_\_\_\_\_

Law Enforcement Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Law Enforcement Name \_\_\_\_\_  
and Contact # \_\_\_\_\_

Coroner: Kriste Ross, F-ABMDI  
701.241.5920

Deputy Coroner: Darin Haverland, D-ABMDI  
701.241.5921

Deputy Coroner: Natalie Basta  
701.241.5638

Death Investigator: Jasmine Olsen  
701.241.5923

## ***What Can You Expect?***

When someone dies, a call is generally made to 911. This results in a response from the local fire department and ambulance service. If the decedent is not transported to the hospital, law enforcement and the Cass County Coroner's Office is notified to respond. Together, they will do an investigation to determine if any suspicious circumstances exist and to gather information necessary for determining cause and manner of death. During that investigation, the coroner's office will determine if an autopsy is needed.

## ***Coroner Investigation***

A Deputy Coroner/Death Investigator will respond and will do the following:

- 1) Introduce themselves and get a history of events surrounding the death and obtain medical history information.
- 2) Establish identity of the decedent or gather information to assist with positive identification.
- 3) Document details from the scene (which may include photographs), perform a physical examination of the decedent, and collect toxicology samples to test for drug, alcohol and carboxyhemoglobin levels.
- 4) Determine if an autopsy will be done.
- 5) Arrange for transportation of the decedent from the scene to the county morgue/autopsy facility.

## ***Frequently Asked Questions***

### ***Does My Loved One Need an Autopsy?***

An autopsy is not necessary in all cases. The circumstances and age of the decedent are significant factors in making that determination. In many cases where the decedent has a documented medical history, an autopsy is not warranted. In cases where the death involves trauma or suspicious circumstances, an autopsy is almost always required. Autopsies are performed by UND Forensic & Autopsy Services in Grand Forks, ND.

### ***What If I Do Not Have a Funeral Home Chosen Yet?***

Decedents will be taken to and remain at the Cass County morgue until transferred to a funeral home of the family's choosing. You should notify the funeral home you prefer for services and they will contact the coroner's office to coordinate transfer to their facility.

### ***What if family members want to view their loved one?***

Contrary to what is frequently portrayed on television or in movies, viewings are not conducted at the county morgue unless needed for positive identification. Please contact the funeral home you select to inquire about a viewing at their facility.

### ***Who Signs a Death Certificate and How Do I Get Copies?***

If the death is due to natural causes and occurred in a medical facility, the attending doctor will sign the death certificate listing cause and manner of death. If a natural death occurs outside a medical facility, the coroner's office or medical examiner will sign.

Deaths that are accidental, suicide, homicide or undetermined will be signed by the coroner's office or medical examiner. A review of medical records will be part of the related investigation.

Death Certificates can be requested through the funeral home. Additional copies can be obtained through the ND Department of Vital Records.

***Cass County Coroner's Office***  
1220 25th Street South  
Fargo, ND 58103  
Phone: 701.241.5920  
Fax: 701.241.5922

***Death Certificates***  
ND Department of Vital Records  
701.328.2360

***Autopsy***  
UND Forensic & Pathology Services  
701.777.1200

***Law Enforcement***  
Cass County Sheriff  
701.241.5800

ND Highway Patrol  
701.239.8960

West Fargo Police  
701.433.5500

Fargo Police  
701.235.4493