


Medical Examiner

2026 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Lindsey Harle M.D., Chief Medical Examiner
Jeff Wallis, Program Supervisor

September 19, 2025 | 10:45 a.m. | Commissioner Chambers



KitsapCounty

9/8/2025

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Medical Examiner's Office

ABOUT US

MISSION

The Kitsap County Medical Examiner's Office is responsible for investigating all sudden, unexpected, or unnatural deaths occurring within Kitsap County. Our office provides a modern medicolegal death investigation system to our community, determining cause and manner of death for cases falling within our jurisdiction. Staff members provide compassionate and professional support for family members of the recently deceased, scientifically sound investigations, and dignified respectful treatment of decedents

Our Motto: We Are The Voice for Those Who Can No Longer Speak

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Medical Examiners Office

EMPLOYEES

The Medical Examiners Office is the only office in Kitsap County that serves all areas and jurisdictions in the county providing 24-hour response.

Our Team

- Lindsey Harle M.D., Chief Medical Examiner
- Erika Wheeler M.D. Associate Medical Examiner
- 5 extra help Medical Examiners
- Sam Sakowski, Autopsy Tech
- James Porter, MDI
- Charlotte Mitchell, MDI
- Troy Graunke, MDI
- Virgil Pentz, MDI
- Nathan Edwards, MDI
- Destiny McKeever, MDI
- Kayla Edwards, MDI
- Rebecca Wildes, MDI extra help
- Jeff Wallis, MDI, Program Supervisor



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GOALS



Goal 1: Compassionately provided, professional, scientifically based medico-legal death investigations

Goal 2: Timely scene investigations, goal to have an MDI on scene within 1 hour of being called

Goal 3: Continued incorporation of technology advancements (rapid DNA, LODOX, toxicology, etc)

Goal 4: Maintain investigations, autopsy performance, and report completion within accreditation standards

Goal 5: Continued participation in county-wide infant/child death review panel by Chief ME

Goal 6: Continued employee training and development

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Autopsy Performance

- 50% of autopsies completed within 48 hours
- 71% within 72 hours

Quality Assurance

- 239 autopsies for the year (2024)
- 205 completed by Chief Medical Examiner staying within accreditation requirements

Scene Investigations

- 611 scene investigations (2024)
- On pace to exceed 700 scene investigations for 2025

Organ and Tissue Donation

- 287 cases referred for donation
- 42 successful organ/tissue donations potentially helping up to 4,620 people
- 40 successful cornea donors

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Investigations (2024)

Scene Investigations:

- 611

Homicide Investigations:

- 5

Drug Related Deaths:

- 97

Infant Death Investigations:

- 8

Indigent Cases:

- 19 processed as indigent
- Family or friends found for 16
- All were checked for qualifying military service

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MEDICAL EXAMINER

BUDGET SUMMARY

Net elimination from supplies/ services budget line items	(\$) - 600
Position elimination from a reclass/reorganization, FTE reduction	(\$) 52, 362 (1 Medicolegal Death Investigator)
New revenue or increased revenues as a result of a specific management action	\$ -
Total fiscal impact	(\$) 52,962

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QUESTIONS?

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THANK YOU!




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