



KENDALL COUNTY CORONER
— JACQUIE PURCELL —

**2017 Kendall County Coroner's Office
Annual Report**

Office of the Kendall County Coroner

804 W John Street, Suite A

Yorkville, Illinois 60560

Telephone: 630-553-4200

Fax: 630-553-4116

Email: coroner@co.kendall.il.us

Website: <https://www.co.kendall.il.us/coroner/>

Table of Contents

Description	Page #
Letter from the Coroner	3-4
Personnel	5-6
Reportable Deaths	7-8
Budget	9
Organ Donation	10
History of Coroner	10
Community Programs	11-12
Resources	12

To the Citizens of Kendall County:

The entire scope of the Office of the Coroner is to determine the manner and cause of each death that occurs in Kendall County. These responsibilities are taken very seriously because the results of our investigations are used by the criminal justice system, for answers and closures for families, public health personnel, and other agencies which gather data with the intention of improving and enriching our lives.

In 2017, there were 302 deaths reported to the Kendall County Coroner's Office. You will be able to find a breakdown of the manner and causes of those deaths throughout this report.

While we are not currently an accredited office, we are in the process of working towards accreditation. To that end, we are developing policies, procedures and operating at a very strict standard to adhere to professional practices demanded by accrediting agencies.

I am extremely proud to say we are staffed with some of the most uniquely trained and qualified personnel within the county. Our staff attends some of the finest trainings available, and continues that education in their application of everyday work. We work within our means and are conscientious of being good stewards of tax dollars. Please take a moment to read about and 'meet' our staff later in this report. Information about our budget, including revenue and expenses, can also be found in this report.

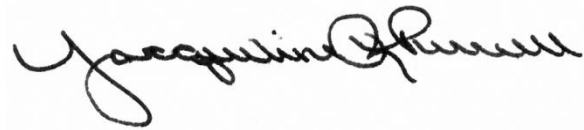
The focus of our office is not only concerned with the circumstances surrounding death. We take equal pride in the level of care that we are able provide to families and loved ones of individuals who have died. We work closely with a chaplain agency which provides both faith and non-faith based counseling services. I am also concerned with self-care, and ensure the staff has access to counseling and debriefing after having to work through particularly traumatizing scenes.

Finally, I take pride in our prevention programs. My office is active throughout the year in the local high schools with driver's education programs, mock prom disaster programs, presenting to law enforcement

classes, and providing morgue tours. I am also an active member with the Tri County Elder Abuse Task Force and Illinois Violent Death Reporting Systems.

I am proud of the work that is produced in our office, proud of the staff that provides outstanding care with a balance between exceptional science work and excellent counsel to families. Above all, I am proud and thankful to serve as the Coroner of Kendall County.

Sincerely,



Jacquie Purcell
Kendall County Coroner



Coroner's Office Personnel

According to the Illinois State Statutes which govern the Coroner's Office, the Coroner and Deputy Coroners are sworn law enforcement officers and are designated by the law as peace officers. In fact, according to IL state statute, the Coroner and Sheriff hold equal powers throughout the county. Our office is comprised of both sworn and non-sworn personnel. Coroner Purcell, Chief Deputy Gotte, Deputy Knowles and Deputy Shockley are all sworn officers. In addition, we have two coroner's assistants. The assistants are not sworn officers and as such do not hold the same powers nor share the same responsibilities as the deputy coroners.

Jacquie Purcell

Kendall County Coroner

Jacquie is the 13th person to be elected as Coroner of Kendall County. She graduated from Worsham College where she studied mortuary science. She is a nationally board certified funeral director and embalmer. She has worked in the death industry since 1994 and is a diplomate of the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators. She serves as the District 1 Director of the Illinois Coroners & Medical Examiner's Association.

Jacquie is also a member of the International Association of Coroners & Medical Examiner's Association, the Society of Medicolegal Death Investigators and an affiliate member of the National Association of Medical Examiners.

Levi Gotte

Chief Deputy Coroner

Levi is the only hired full-time staff member in the coroner's office. His background is extensive in public safety. He worked as a supervisor for Kendall County's 9-1-1 Center. He is currently appointed as the Deputy Director of Operations with the Kendall County Emergency Management Agency. He also serves as an Auxiliary Corporal with the Kendall County Sheriff's Office. Levi has completed training with the St. Louis University School of Medicine – Division of Forensic Sciences, Basic Medicolegal Death Investigator Training Program. He is also a fellow member of the International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners.

Jessica Knowles

Deputy Coroner

Jessica is a part-time Deputy Coroner with the office. She studied at College of DuPage and received her license as Radiologic Technician. She furthered her studies at Weber State University in Utah where she received her license as a Radiological Practitioner Assistant. She currently works full time in the Interventional Radiology department at a local hospital. Jessica completed training with the International Coroner's and Medical Examiner's Association, Basic Medicolegal Death Investigator Training Program. She is also a fellow member of the International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners.

Scott Shockley

Deputy Coroner

Scott is a part-time Deputy Coroner with the office. His background is extensive in Law Enforcement. He recently retired as a Sergeant after 25 years with the Oswego Police Department. Scott will be attending the Medicolegal Death Investigator Basic Training Course in 2018.

Michael Hoffer

Coroner's Assistant

Michael works full time with the Kendall County 9-1-1 Center. He works part time with the Steger Estates Fire Department in Crete, IL and Wallace Fire Department in Ottawa, Illinois.

Patricia Monarrez

Coroner's Assistant

Patricia recently graduated from Calumet College of St. Joseph with her degree in Criminal Justice with a Forensic Science Concentration. She has worked with several campus security agencies, but she is just beginning her public safety career.

Dr. Kristin Escobar Alvarenga

Forensic Pathologist / Coroner's Physician

Kristin Escobar Alvarenga, M.D., is originally from Texas where she received her undergraduate degree from Baylor University and her medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas. She then completed her Anatomic and Clinical Pathology Residency at Montefiore Medical Center and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, New York, followed by a one year forensic pathology fellowship training program at the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences. Dr. Escobar-Alvarenga works full-time as a medical examiner in Cook County and contracts with Kendall County as a Coroner's Physician.

Reportable Deaths in Kendall County

Kendall County runs on a fiscal year which begins December 1 and ends on November 30. Therefore, the deaths presented in this report occurred during Fiscal Year 2017 which began December 1, 2016 and ended November 30, 2017.

The State of Illinois dictates that the jurisdiction for the coroner is wherever the subject is pronounced dead. This simply means, that if an incident occurs in Kendall County, but that person is transported by any means (personal transport, ambulance, helicopter, etc.) to a hospital or area outside of Kendall County, and is pronounced dead, the Coroner in that county assumes jurisdiction for that death. There are many incidents that begin in Kendall County, but jurisdiction for the coroner is transferred to another county when the subject is pronounced dead outside of the county.

There are 5 manners of death. Each reported death will be examined and assigned a manner and cause of death. The manners are: natural, accidental, suicidal, homicidal or undetermined. The following charts show a breakdown of deaths which have occurred and were reported to our office during Fiscal Year 2017 (FY2017).

DEATHS by MANNER

Natural	268
Accident	24
Suicide	9
Homicide	1
Undetermined	0
Pending	0
TOTAL DEATHS REPORTED 2017	302

NATURAL DEATHS by CAUSE

DESCRIPTION	# of Cases	DESCRIPTION	# of Cases	DESCRIPTION	# of Cases
Heart Disease (Including Hypertension, Coronary Artery Disease, Atherosclerosis, Myocardial Infarctions, etc.)	70	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)/Emphysema	21	Alzheimer's Disease/Dementia/Parkinson's Disease	29
Colon Cancer Including: Rectal/Anal Cancer	8	Brain Cancer	6	Cerebrovascular Accident Cerebrovascular Disease	10
Liver Cancer	2	Kidney Cancer	3	Sarcoma	1
Prostate Cancer	8	Bladder Cancer	4	Adult Failure to Thrive	6
Ovarian/Uterine Cancer	1	Stomach Cancer	1	Kidney Disease	13
Lung Cancer	23	Leukemia/Lymphoma	8	Cancer Other	6
Breast Cancer	7	Pancreatic Cancer	10	Complications of Chronic Alcoholism	5
Esophageal Cancer	4	Pneumonia	15	Melanoma	1
Myeloma	3	Myelodysplastic Syndrome	2	Non-Alcoholic Liver Disease	1

NON-NATURAL DEATHS by CAUSE & MANNER

DESCRIPTION	MANNER	DESCRIPTION	MANNER
Cocaine, Heroin & Fentanyl Intoxication	Accident	Methadone Intoxication	Accident
Cocaine & Fentanyl Intoxication	Accident	Ethanol & Alprazolam Intoxication	Accident
Craniocervical Injuries/Motor Vehicle Collision	Accident	Blunt Force Injuries of the Head/Fall Down Stairs	Accident
Combined Drug Intoxication (Fentanyl & Despropionyl Fentanyl+)	Accident	Cocaine & Hydrocodone Toxicity	Accident
Asphyxia/Traumatic Compression of Torso	Accident	Cocaine Toxicity	Accident
Combined Drug Toxicity (Heroin, Alprazolam +)	Accident	Cocaine & Heroin Toxicity	Accident
Blunt Force Injuries/Motor Vehicle Collision	Accident	Fetal Demise/Maternal Death/Motor Vehicle	Accident
Blunt Force Injuries/Motor Vehicle Collision	Accident	Ethanol & Heroin Toxicity	Accident
Traumatic Asphyxiation/Pinned Under Lawn Tractor	Accident	Heroin Intoxication	Accident
Fentanyl, Acetyl Fentanyl, Heroin & Cocaine Intoxication	Accident	Heroin & Ethanol Intoxication	Accident
Blunt Force Trauma/Motor Vehicle Collision	Accident	Complications of Traumatic Brain Injury/Motorcycle	Accident
Blunt Force Trauma/Fall from Grain Bin	Accident	Hip Fracture	Accident
Asphyxia Due to Hanging (6 cases)	Suicide	Hydrocodone & Acetaminophen Toxicity	Suicide
Gunshot Wound to the Head (2 Cases)	Suicide	Pneumonia, Malnutrition, Dehydration, Physical Neglect	Homicide

BUDGET

The Kendall County Coroner’s Office operates on a budget from the general fund. In FY 2017 our entire budget was \$167,094. We also generate revenue by charging a \$50 fee for cremation authorizations and various fees for specific reports (autopsy reports, toxicology reports, etc.). In FY 2017, the Kendall County Coroner’s Office authorized 173 cremation permits. According to the IL State Statute, these revenues are held in a special fund which can be used to supplement the coroner’s office’s general operations. In 2017, the Kendall County Coroner’s Office received \$9,910.00, in special fees. The coroner’s offices throughout the State of Illinois also receive an annual grant. The grant monies are based on a surcharge amount placed on each death certificate issued. Therefore, the grant amounts change dependent on the number of death certificates issued, throughout the state, during the previous year. In FY 2017, the Kendall County Coroner’s Office received a grant for \$4,454.00.

The following is a basic breakdown of the line items expended from the Kendall County Coroner’s Office General Budget for FY 2017:

DESCRIPTION	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Coroner’s Salary	57,944	57,498.00
Staff Salaries (Combined)	64,000	49,325.75
Office Supplies	2,000	2048.14
Postage	500	206.50
Dues/Memberships	1,000	999.00
Mileage	400	980.08
Training	4,000	3834.96
Vehicle Maintenance	4,000	2920.64
Clothing Allowance	1,000	967.49
Autopsies	20,000	30,380.00
X-Rays	500	0.00
Toxicology Testing	7,000	9787.00
Morgue Supplies	3,000	2796.31
Biohazard Waste	1,000	934.50
Burial/Indigent Persons	500	0.00
Histology	250	91.00
TOTAL	\$167,094	\$162,769.37

*Please note, these amounts are appropriate at the time of this publication. Occasionally, after audits are completed, the budget numbers will change slightly.

ORGAN/TISSUE DONATION

We work closely with the Gift of Hope which is our regional Organ Procurement Organization. In 2017, the Kendall County Coroner's Office facilitated four donations which benefited over one hundred recipients. We have developed this program just this year and while we have had several successful donation cases, we hope to see the program continue to grow in the years to come.

HISTORY OF CORONER

'Carorum Ad Curam', this is a Latin statement you'll notice on many of the items produced from our office. It is a way of offering tribute to the original roots of the Coroner's Office. Originally, the job title, *'custos placitorum coronae'*, was the Officer tasked with protecting the property of the Royal Family. From the Latin, *'Corona'*, meaning 'crown' eventually became 'Coroner'. The function of the office gradually changed, and by the 17th century the main duties were to determine the cause of death in cases not obviously natural. *'Carorum Ad Curam'* translates literally to mean 'to take care of loved ones'. There is no better way to express what we do here in our office. We take care of loved ones – both who have died and those left to mourn.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Throughout the year we are active in the community. Below is a listing of the presentations and/or trainings provided by the Kendall County Coroner's Office:

- Coroner Purcell provided a presentation for Operation Impact at Yorkville High School on December 1, 2016.
- Coroner Purcell provided a presentation for the Oswego High School Law Enforcement Class on February 22, 2017.
- Coroner Purcell provided a morgue tour for the Oswego High School Law Enforcement Class on February 24, 2017
- The Coroner's Office provided a presentation for Operation Impact at Oswego East High School on March 2, 2017
- Chief Deputy Coroner Gotte and Deputy Coroner Knowles participated in Operation Prom at Oswego East High School on April 26, 2017.
- Coroner Purcell and Chief Deputy Coroner Levi Gotte participated in Operation Impact at Oswego High School on May 3, 2017.
- Chief Deputy Coroner Levi Gotte provided a presentation to IVVC Law Enforcement Classes (AM & PM) and Health Careers Class on May 9, 2017.
- Coroner Purcell provided a morgue tour to the IVVC Law Enforcement Classes (AM & PM) on May 10, 2017.
- Coroner Purcell participated in Operation Impact at Yorkville High School on May 12, 2017.
- Coroner Purcell provided human bone identification training for the local Search & Rescue Team on May 13, 2017.
- Coroner Purcell provided human bone identification training for the Illinois Search & Rescue Team on September 20, 2017.

- Chief Deputy Coroner Gotte provided an orientation for three new Kendall County Sheriff's Deputies on October 13, 2017.
- Coroner Purcell for presented for the Law Enforcement Class at Oswego East High School on October 30, 2017.
- Chief Deputy Coroner Gotte provided a morgue tour for the Oswego East High School Law Enforcement Class on November 1, 2017.
- Chief Deputy Coroner Gotte provided a presentation for Waubensee Community College's Upward Bound program at Aurora East High School on November 16, 2017.

CLOSING

The Kendall County Coroner's Office is always available to the public for questions or concerns. Please feel free to contact us for any reason.

RESOURCES

Gift of Hope Organ/Tissue Network	630-758-2600
Nationwide Chaplain Services	847-890-5003
Compassionate Friends (Local) (For parents who have lost children)	630-779-7756
Suicide Prevention Services	630-482-9699
Kendall County Health Department	630-553-9100