



KENDALL COUNTY CORONER  
— JACQUIE PURCELL —

**Kendall County Coroner's Office  
Annual Report  
2018**



## **Office of the Kendall County Coroner**

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To the Citizens of Kendall County:

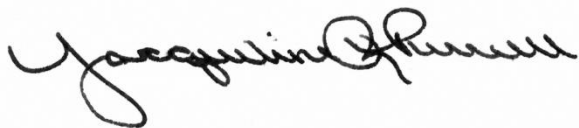
The Kendall County Coroner's Office is pleased to release this 2018 Annual Report. The purpose of the report is to enable the Kendall County Board Members and the general public to better acquaint themselves with the activities of our office, as well as to provide an ongoing statistical analysis of past and current deaths in the county to serve as a tool for future planning.

We are diligently working toward accreditation by creating applicable policies and procedures. It has been an eventful year. We have continued to build relationships with our Law Enforcement, Emergency Medical Services, Health Department, and local funeral homes. In recent years, in the state of Illinois, the workload of county Coroners has increased dramatically. This is partly due to changes in society that have made the Coroner's investigative function increasingly important to help resolve conflicts in criminal and civil legal cases, insurance investigations, and other issues. In addition, our office continues to involve itself in community education by speaking to high school classes for driver's education, law enforcement and health careers. We work closely with the courts on customized community service programs. I have also worked to create an Opioid Study Group to manage the multi-disciplinary approaches to the overwhelming opioid crisis. I have facilitated a grief support group specifically for families and friends who have been impacted by an overdose related death. The group is called, "Lights of Hope", and thus far has been very well received. I serve on the Tri-County Elder Abuse Task Force, and I am actively involved with the Illinois Violent Death Reporting Systems.

Our goal is to maintain a high level of quality, professionalism, and integrity in the field of death investigation. We hope that the reader finds the report useful and informative. I would like to thank my investigators and assistants for the time and effort that they have put in at all hours. Without their dedication to the community and their compassion to help families of the deceased, this office could not function efficiently.

I am proud of the work that is produced in our office, and above all I am proud and thankful to serve as the Coroner of Kendall County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jacquie Purcell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "P".

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, and Deputy Knowles are all sworn officers. In addition, we have four 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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. She started with the Kane County Coroner's Office, moved to the LaSalle County Coroner's Office and has been with the Kendall County Coroner's Office since 2003. Jacquie is a diplomate of the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators, and 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 full-time staff member in the coroner's office. His background is extensive in public safety. He has 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. 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***

### **Coroner's Assistant**

Scott is a part-time coroner's assistant 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.

## ***Jennifer Hockings***

### **Coroner's Assistant**

Jennifer is a part-time Coroner's Assistant with the office. She has an Associate of Applied Science in Veterinary Technology from Parkland College in Champaign, Illinois. She is currently employed as a Certified Veterinary Technician at a local animal hospital.

## ***Patricia Monarrez***

### **Coroner's Assistant**

Patricia (Paty) is a part-time Coroner's Assistant with the office. She 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.

## ***David Jordan***

### **Coroner's Assistant**

Dave is a part-time Coroner's Assistant with Kendall County. He is employed full-time as a Lieutenant and Paramedic and part-time as an Assistant Chief of Operations for two local fire protection districts. Dave has over 30 years of experience in the fire service.

## ***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 2018 which began December 1, 2017 and ended November 30, 2018.

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 2018 (FY2018).

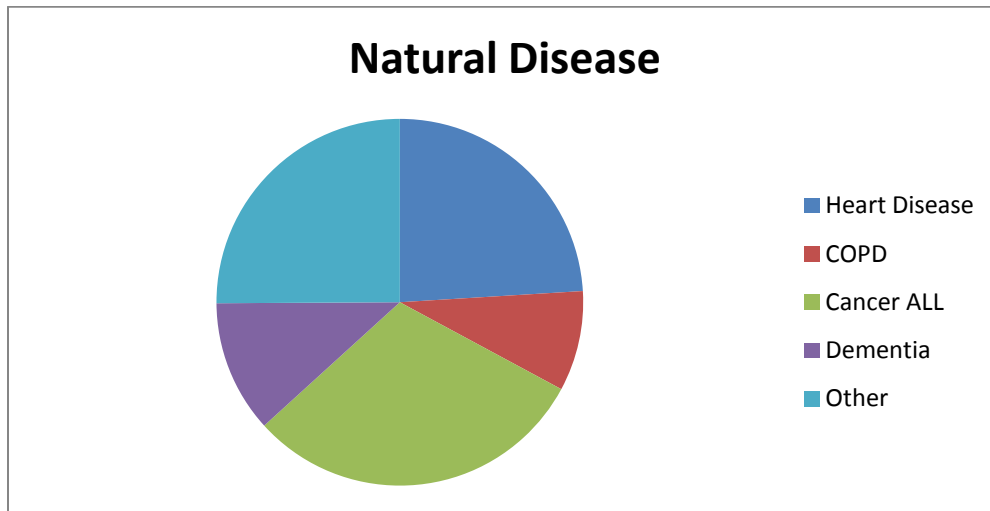
### DEATHS by MANNER

Natural	283
Accident	16
Suicide	7
Homicide	1
Undetermined	2
Pending	0
<b>TOTAL DEATHS REPORTED 2018</b>	<b>309</b>



## NATURAL DEATHS by Cause

Description	# of Cases	Description	# of Cases	Description	# of Cases
All HEART Related Diseases	68	COPD/Pulmonary Fibrosis	25	Alzheimer's Parkinson's/Dementia	33
Stroke/CVA	12	Pneumonia	15	Adult Failure to Thrive	9
ALS	3	Diabetes	2	Complications of Chronic Alcoholism	6
Non-Alcoholic Liver Disease	2	Kidney/Renal Disease	8	Myelodysplastic Syndrome	1
Asthma	1	Multi Organ System Failure	1	Sepsis	2
Cancer: Adenocarcinoma	1	Cancer: Bladder	3	Cancer: Brain	3
Cancer: Breast	5	Cancer: Colon/Rectal/Anal	11	Cancer: Esophageal	1
Cancer: Kidney	2	Cancer: Liver	3	Cancer: Lung	16
Leukemia or Lymphoma	4	Cancer: Ovarian/Cervical / Uterine	6	Cancer: Pancreas	7
Cancer: Prostate	8	Cancer: Other	16	Disease: Other	9



## NON-NATURAL DEATHS by Cause, Manner, Age & Sex

DESCRIPTION	MANNER	Age	M/F
Blunt Force Injuries due to Ejection from Motorcycle	Accident	22	Female
Combined Drug (Hydrocodone, Lorazepam and Acetaminophen) Toxicity	Accident	56	Female
Veterbral Fracture (L4) due to Fall at Home	Accident	91	Male
Asphyxiation due to Hanging	Accident	36	Male
Combined Drug (Heroin and Diazepam) Toxicity	Accident	32	Male
Combined Drug (Cocaine, Methadone & Alprazolam) Toxicity	Accident	18	Male
Combined Drug (Fentanyl & Heroin) Toxicity	Accident	33	Male
Drowning due to Cardiac Event	Accident	67	Male
Heroin and Hydromorphone Intoxication	Accident	26	Male
Combined Drug (Heroin, Amphetamine, Hydrocodone, Alprazolam, Clonazepam, Diphenhydramine) Toxicity	Accident	39	Female
Fentanyl Toxicity	Accident	29	Male
Blunt Force Injuries due to Motor Vehicle Accident	Accident	32	Female
Fentanyl Toxicity	Accident	22	Female
Combined Drug (Fentanyl, Acetyl Fentanyl, Heroin, Alprazolam and Diazepam) Toxicity	Accident	27	Female
Blunt Force Injuries due to Motor Vehicle Accident	Accident	26	Female
Difluoroethane Toxicity	Accident	52	Male
Drowning	Undetermined	49	Male
Unable to Determine	Undetermined	30	Male
Insulin Intoxication	Suicide	31	Male
Gunshot Wound to the Chest	Suicide	43	Female
Asphyxiation due to Hanging	Suicide	19	Female
Asphyxiation due to Carbon Monoxide Intoxication	Suicide	47	Female
Gunshot Wound to the Head	Suicide	48	Male
Ethanol, Hydrocodone, Acetaminophen, Clonazepam, Bupropion, Carisoprodol, Guaifenesin, Trazodone, & Cyclobenzaprine Toxicity	Suicide	53	Male
Asphyxiation Due to Hanging	Suicide	34	Male
Remote Gunshot Wound to the Back	Homicide	43	Male

## **Scene Response/Transportation**

The Kendall County Coroner's Office responds to many scenes throughout the year. During the investigation, the decision is made whether or not the body should be transported to the Kendall County Coroner's Office for further investigation, transported until next-of-kin can be notified, or released directly to the care of the funeral home. In 2018, the Coroner's staff responded to 67 different calls/scenes and transported 43 bodies to the Kendall County morgue.

## **BUDGET**

The Kendall County Coroner's Office operates on a budget from the general fund. In FY 2018 our entire operating budget was \$174,066. 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 2018, the Kendall County Coroner's Office authorized 194 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 2018, the Kendall County Coroner's Office received \$8,536.00, 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 amount is dependent on the number of death certificates issued, throughout the state, during the previous year. In FY 2018, the Kendall County Coroner's Office received a grant for \$4,477.00. The Kendall County Coroner's Office began working with SUDORS (State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System) which provides a stipend to the office in return for statistical gathering and actively working to reduce opioid deaths within the communities. In 2018, the Kendall County Coroner's Office received a stipend for \$1,479.50. These combined monies are mostly unrestricted and are used to supplement the general budget.

# FOIA

## Freedom of Information

The Kendall County Coroner’s Office receives requests throughout the year for records and information. The majority of information regarding a death is considered public information. The number of requests and responses are represented in the following chart:

	Granted in Full	Granted / Denied in Part	Denied	No Responsive Records	Total Requests	Commercial Requests
<b>Dec. 17</b>	1	0	0	3	4	4
<b>Jan. 18</b>	0	0	0	4	4	4
<b>Feb. 18</b>	1	0	0	4	5	4
<b>Mar. 18</b>	0	0	0	4	4	4
<b>Apr. 18</b>	1	0	0	4	5	5
<b>May 18</b>	2	0	0	2	4	3
<b>Jun. 18</b>	3	0	0	1	4	4
<b>Jul. 18</b>	1	0	0	6	7	7
<b>Aug. 18</b>	3	0	0	0	3	2
<b>Sep. 18</b>	0	0	0	1	1	1
<b>Oct. 18</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Nov. 18</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>38</b>

Please refer to the Kendall County website at [www.co.kendall.il.us](http://www.co.kendall.il.us) and click on the FOIA link to process any FOIA requests.

## **ORGAN/TISSUE DONATION**

We work closely with the Gift of Hope which is our regional Organ Procurement Organization. In 2018, the Kendall County Coroner's Office facilitated a number of donations which benefited over one hundred recipients. The gift of donation is special for both the donor and family and recipient. The criterion which needs to be met to even qualify for donation is quite strict, so when a donation is able to be successfully completed – it is truly a gift.

## **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:

- The Kendall County Coroner's Office presented at Montgomery Police Department's general staff meeting regarding investigative cooperation.
- Chief Deputy Levi Gotte provided a Coroner's Office Orientation to new deputies with the Kendall County Sheriff's Office
- Coroner Purcell met with the Health Department director to develop a community forum regarding the opioid epidemic and its impact on Kendall County.
- Coroner Purcell provided three morgue tours for US Congressman Randy Hultgren's STEM Scholars program.
- Coroner Purcell was present and offered relevant statistics at the Kendall County Committee of the Whole meeting regarding the county entering into a lawsuit against pharmaceutical companies in response to the opioid epidemic and its impact on Kendall County.
- Coroner Purcell participated in Operation Impact at Oswego High School.
- Coroner Purcell provided an orientation for an intern with the Oswego Police Department.
- Chief Deputy Gotte provided a presentation to the IVVC Law Enforcement Classes (AM & PM Classes).
- Coroner Purcell co-hosted a community forum regarding the opioid epidemic and its impact on Kendall County.

- Coroner Purcell participated in Operation Impact at Oswego East high School.
- Coroner Purcell presented to the Law Enforcement class at Oswego East High School.
- Coroner Purcell, along with the Kendall County Health Department, hosted an Opioid Study. All 2017 opioid related deaths were reviewed.
- Coroner Purcell met with community members interested in developing a grief support group specifically for those who have been impacted by overdose related deaths.
- Chief Deputy Gotte presented at IVVC for the combined: Law Enforcement, EMS and Healthcare Careers classes.
- Coroner Purcell, along with the Health Department, hosted an Opioid Study Group with local law enforcement and EMS Personnel.
- Coroner Purcell provided a presentation to the IL Search and Rescue Council regarding identification of human bones during search operations.
- Coroner Purcell facilitated a meeting at the Kendall County Health Department with local law enforcement agencies, addiction centers and HIDTA regarding the impact of opioid addiction in Kendall County.
- Coroner Purcell presented for Operation Impact at Oswego East High School.
- Coroner Purcell offered three more morgue tours/presentations for US Congressman Randy Hultgren's STEM Scholars program.
- Coroner Purcell presented for the Law Enforcement Class at Oswego East High School.
- Coroner Purcell provided a morgue tour for the Law Enforcement Class at Oswego High School.
- Coroner Purcell facilitated the first 'Lights of Hope' grief support group specifically for community members who have been impacted by an overdose related death.
- Coroner Purcell provided a presentation for Operation Impact at Oswego High School.



## Elected Coroners of Kendall County

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Term</u></b>
Hon. Lewis Brinsley Judson	1841-1842
Hon. George Albert Hollenback	1842-1848
Hon. Solomon Heustis	1848-1854
Hon. William Wesley Winn	1854-1856
Hon. Nathan Carr Mighell	1856-1860
Hon. John H. Bird	1860-1862
Hon. John Dunn	1882-1864
Hon. Mordicai Davis	1864-1866
Dr. Daniel Smith Jenks	1866-1868
Hon. Lyman Childs	1868-1870
Hon. Willis Atkins	1870-1872
Hon. James B. Littlewood	1872-1874
Hon. Orris W. Grant	1874-1878
Dr. Isaac E. Bennett	1878-1882
Dr. Robert Alexander McClelland	1882-1892
Dr. Frank Howard Lord	1892-1900
Dr. Amasa Elijah Field	1900-1904
Hon. Thomas Barnett Drew	1904-1916
Hon. Arthur Evarts Lord	1916-1928
Dr. Frederick Michael Groner	1928-1940
Dr. Lyman Ambrose Perkins	1940-1960
Hon. Everett M. McKeown	1960-1976
Hon. William F. Dunn	1976-1992
Hon. Kenneth Orrin Toftoy	1992-2016
Hon. Jacqueline Rae Purcell	2016 -

## 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 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.



OFFICE OF JACQUIE PURCELL  
KENDALL COUNTY CORONER

804 W. JOHN STREET, STE A  
YORKVILLE, ILLINOIS 60560



## 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
Lights of Hope (For those impacted by overdose deaths)	630-553-4200
Suicide Prevention Services	630-482-9699
Kendall County Health Department	630-553-9100
Veteran's Assistance Commission	630-553-8355

The following is a list of funeral homes and cremation services in our general area.  
The Kendall County Coroner does not recommend one funeral home or  
cremation service over another.

### Cremation Services

Cremation Society of Illinois	800-622-8358
Illinois Cremation Centers	877-368-7005
Simplicity Funeral & Cremation Care	630-445-1439
DuPage Cremations, Ltd.	630-293-5200

### Funeral Homes

<b>Aurora</b>		<b>Oswego</b>	
Daleiden Mortuary	630-631-5500	Dunn Family Funeral Home	630-554-8484
Healy Chapel	630-897-9291	<b>Plano</b>	
James Funeral Service	630-851-6503	Nelson Funeral Home	630-553-7611
<b>Montgomery</b>		Turner Funeral Home	630-552-3022
Dieterle Memorial Home	630-897-1196	<b>Sandwich</b>	
<b>Newark</b>		Beverage Family Funeral Home	815-786-6715
Gabel-Dunn Funeral Home	815-695-5131	<b>Yorkville</b>	
		Nelson Funeral Home	630-553-7611



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JACQUIE PURCELL