



KENDALL COUNTY CORONER
— JACQUIE PURCELL —

**Kendall County Coroner's Office
Annual Report
2020**

Office of the Kendall County Coroner

804 W John Street, Suite A

Yorkville, Illinois 60560

Telephone: 630-553-4200

Fax: 630-553-4116

Email: coroneradmin@co.kendall.il.us

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/kendallcountycoroner

Table of Contents

Description	Page #
Letter from the Coroner	3
Personnel	4-6
Reportable Deaths/Scene Response	7-9
Budget/FOIA	10
Organ & Tissue Donation and Community Programs	11
Elected Coroners of Kendall County	12
History of the Coroner	13
Resources	14

To the Citizens of Kendall County:

The Kendall County Coroner's Office is pleased to release this 2020 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.

Wow, what a year we have had! My office has really had to adapt and overcome with the changes brought upon us by the Novel Coronavirus-19. We run a 24/7/365 schedule with a very small staff, and due to COVID-19, we had to scale back that staff even more. We were able to complete a lot of work from home, developed new techniques, and quickly changed protocols to maintain safety with both staff and public.

We missed out on a lot of programs we would normally have been involved with. We miss being able to network with fellow law enforcement, fire and EMS personnel. We miss having interns. We miss having community service help. We miss the public interactions, both in the office and throughout the community. But, we have remained healthy and safe, and that is what is important. These areas of vigilance continue to exemplify an office which proudly produces quality and professional death investigations. Our commitment to serving Kendall County is our number one priority.

I am tremendously appreciative to my investigators and assistants for their dedication, both to the office and to the families we serve. Their compassionate care is unmistakable in everything they do. It is truly my honor to work alongside such fine individuals. I feel like I have grown so much over the course of my first term, and I am honored to begin serving my second term as 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 Jessica Gotte, Deputy Dave Jordan and Deputy Paty Monarrez 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 do they share the same responsibilities as the deputy coroners.

Jacquie Purcell

Kendall County Coroner

Jacquie is the 25th 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 began her career 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 for 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 Gotte

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.

David Jordan

Deputy Coroner

Dave is a part-time Deputy Coroner 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.

Patricia Monarrez

Deputy Coroner

Patricia (Paty) was promoted from Coroner's Assistant to Deputy Coroner this year. She is a graduate of Calumet College of St. Joseph with her degree in Criminal Justice with a Forensic Science Concentration. She works full-time as a Youth Counselor with the Kane County Juvenile Justice Center.

Coroner's Assistants

Jennifer Hockings

Michael Melcher

Lynsey Ingram

Jennifer Coe

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 she 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 2020, which began December 1, 2019 and ended November 30, 2020.

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 (generally at a hospital) 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 2020.

DEATHS by MANNER

Natural	365
Accident	17
Suicide	13
Homicide	1
Undetermined	0
TOTAL DEATHS REPORTED 2020	396

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 2020, the Coroner’s staff responded to 57 different calls/scenes and transported 47 bodies to the Kendall County morgue.

NATURAL DEATHS by Cause

Description	# of Cases
ALL Heart Related	92
ALL Cancers	90
ALL Dementias	70
COPD/Pneumonias	29
ALL Stroke/CVAs	32
ALL Failure to Thrive	9
ALL Kidney Failure	13
ALL Other	30

COVID-19 Related Deaths

The Coroner’s Office is responsible for tracking deaths that occur inside Kendall County. There were 8 deaths inside Kendall County attributed to COVID-19 throughout FY2020.

Date	Age	M/F	Location
4/2020	95	Male	Facility
5/2020	86	Female	Facility
5/2020	91	Female	Facility
5/2020	86	Female	Facility
11/2020	91	Female	Facility
11/2020	95	Male	Facility
11/2020	92	Female	Facility
11/2020	89	Female	Residence - Hospice

NON-NATURAL DEATHS by Cause & Manner

DESCRIPTION	MANNER	Age	M/F
Combined Ethanol & Nordiazepam Toxicity	Accident	59	Male
Injuries due to Motor Vehicle Collision	Accident	22	Male
Combined Hydrocodone & Diphenhydramine Toxicity	Accident	55	Male
Combined Ethanol, 4-ANPP, Fentanyl, Acetyl Fentanyl and Mitragynine Toxicity	Accident	42	Male
Combined Drug (Fentanyl and 4-ANPP) Toxicity	Accident	19	Male
Combined Drug (4-ANPP, Fentanyl & Alprazolam) Toxicity	Accident	32	Male
Combined Drug (Ethanol, Methamphetamine, Trazodone, Nordiazepam) Toxicity	Accident	35	Female
Blunt Force Trauma Due to Automobile vs Tree	Accident	25	Male
Blunt Force Trauma Due to Automobile vs Tree	Accident	46	Male
Combined Drug (Alprazolam, Cocaine & Fentanyl) Toxicity	Accident	23	Male
Diabetic Ketoacidosis, Recent Cocaine Use	Accident	45	Male
Combined Drug (Heroin, Alprazolam & Diazepam) Toxicity	Accident	41	Male
Exsanguination due to Central Venous Dialysis Catheter Displacement	Accident	80	Female
Fentanyl Toxicity	Accident	47	Female
Combined Drug (Fentanyl, Diazepam, Hydrocodone, Oxymorphone, Alprazolam and 4-ANPP) Toxicity	Accident	30	Female
Combined Drug (Fentanyl, Mitragynine, 4-ANPP & Recent Cocaine) Toxicity	Accident	35	Male
Combined Drug (Fentanyl & 4-ANPP) Toxicity	Accident	44	Female
Asphyxiation due to Bag Over Head	Suicide	53	Male
Asphyxiation due to Hanging	Suicide	51	Male
Asphyxiation due to Hanging	Suicide	92	Male
Gunshot Wound to the Head	Suicide	83	Male
Gunshot Wound to the Head	Suicide	52	Male
Asphyxiation due to Hanging	Suicide	22	Male
Gunshot Wound to the Head	Suicide	19	Male
Gunshot Wound to the Head	Suicide	33	Male
Asphyxiation due to Hanging	Suicide	24	Male
Asphyxiation due to Hanging	Suicide	22	Male
Gunshot Wound to the Head	Suicide	26	Male
Gunshot Wound to the Head	Suicide	48	Male
Asphyxiation due to Hanging	Suicide	54	Male
Olanzapine Toxicity	Homicide	6	Female

BUDGET

The Kendall County Coroner's Office operates on a budget from the general fund. In FY 2020 our entire operating budget was \$180,658. 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 2020, the Kendall County Coroner's Office authorized 249 cremation permits. According to the IL State Statute, all revenues received from cremation permits and fees for report copies are held in a special fund which can be used to supplement the coroner's office's general operations. In 2020, the Kendall County Coroner's Office received \$11,833.00, 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 2020, the Kendall County Coroner's Office received a grant for \$4,336.00. 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 2020, the Kendall County Coroner's Office received a stipend for \$1944.75. 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. In 2020, the Kendall County Coroner's Office fulfilled 4 FOIA requests.

Please refer to the Kendall County website at 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 2020, 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 quite active in the community. The Kendall County Coroner's Office is active in the local high schools and vocational schools with the various driver's education programs, Law Enforcement Classes, Health & Science Careers, and STEM programs. Again, due to COVID-19, many programs were cancelled. Our community and training programs are well received, and we hope to be back out in the community soon.

Coroner Purcell hosts a monthly meeting called 'Lights of Hope' for family and friends who have been impacted by an overdose related death. We normally meet at a local restaurant, but due to indoor dining restrictions these meetings have had to be placed on hold. However, we do keep in touch with each other via our Facebook page. Please refer to the Kendall County Coroner's Facebook page for more information.

The Kendall County Coroner's Office provides monthly open-to-the-public tours of the office and morgue. Please refer to the Kendall County website or Facebook page for additional information. We will offer open-to-the-public tours again when it is safe to do so.

Coroner Purcell was recently appointed as the Chairman of the Tri-County At-Risk Adult Fatality Review Team. The team serves to identify deaths of At-Risk Adults and establish protocols to ensure certain measures are in place to avoid similar deaths.

The Kendall County Coroner's Office partners with the Kendall County Probation Department for community service workers. Many hours of community service hours are served each year through the Coroner's Office.



Elected Coroners of Kendall County

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term</u>
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	1862-1864
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 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.

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
Survivors of Suicide (Resources for those impacted by suicide)	630-482-9699
Kendall County Health Department (Grief Counseling Services)	630-553-9100
Veteran's Assistance Commission	630-553-8355

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

Direct 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

Direct Body Donation Services

Science Care	800-417-3747
Anatomical Gift Association	312-733-5283

Local Funeral Homes

Aurora	
Daleiden Mortuary	630-631-5500
Healy Chapel	630-897-9291
James Funeral Service	630-851-6503
Montgomery	
Dieterle Memorial Home	630-897-1196
Newark	
Gabel-Dunn Funeral Home	815-695-5131
Oswego	
Dunn Family Funeral Home	630-554-8484
Plano	
Larson-Nelson Funeral Home	630-552-7211
Turner-Eighner Funeral Home	630-552-3022
Sandwich	
Beverage Funeral Home	815-786-6715
Nelson Funeral Home	815-786-6461
Burkhart-Eighner Funeral Home	815-786-2165
Yorkville	
Larson-Nelson Funeral Home	630-553-7611