



KENDALL COUNTY CORONER  
— JACQUIE PURCELL —

**Kendall County Coroner's Office  
Annual Report  
2019**



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

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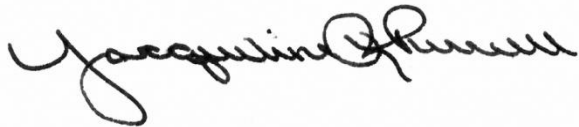
To the Citizens of Kendall County:

The Kendall County Coroner's Office is pleased to release this 2019 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.

As I look back on the past three years, I can't help but notice the amount of change we have had – staff restructuring, implementing policies and procedures, and establishing new programs. We continue to build strong relationships with our local law enforcement agencies, fire departments, local funeral homes and other community partners. It has all resulted in a high level of quality and professional death investigations, and an office which I am pleased to represent.

I am extremely grateful to my investigators and assistants for their dedication, both to the office and to the families we serve. Their compassionate care is evident in everything they do. It is my privilege to work alongside such fine people, and I am truly honored 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, 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 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.

***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.

***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.

## ***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 2019 which began December 1, 2018 and ended November 30, 2019.

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 2019.

### DEATHS by MANNER

Natural	284
Accident	12
Suicide	12
Homicide	2
Undetermined	1
Pending	0
<b>TOTAL DEATHS REPORTED 2019</b>	<b>311</b>



## 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 2019, the Coroner’s staff responded to 54 different calls/scenes and transported 35 bodies to the Kendall County morgue.

### NATURAL DEATHS by Cause

Description	# of Cases	Description	# of Cases	Description	# of Cases
All HEART Related Diseases	57	COPD/Pulmonary Fibrosis	24	Alzheimer’s Parkinson’s/Dementia	48
Stroke/CVA	11	Pneumonia	14	Adult Failure to Thrive	14
ALS	0	Diabetes	0	Complications of Chronic Alcoholism	8
Non-Alcoholic Liver Disease	2	Kidney/Renal Disease	6	Myelodysplastic Syndrome	1
Sepsis	7	Cancer: Bladder	3	Cancer: Gallbladder	5
Cancer: Breast	4	Cancer: Colon/Rectal/Anal	8	Cancer: Esophageal	5
Cancer: Kidney	3	Cancer: Liver	0	Cancer: Lung	15
Leukemia or Lymphoma	5	Cancer: Ovarian/Cervical / Uterine	8	Cancer: Pancreas	12
Cancer: Prostate	5	Cancer: Other	14	Disease: Other	5

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

DESCRIPTION	MANNER	Age	M/F
Complications of Traumatic Subdural Hematoma Due to a Fall in the Home	Accident	100	Female
Acute Olanzapine Intoxication	Accident	70	Female
Complications of Right Femur Fracture Due to a Fall in the Home	Accident	83	Female
Blunt Force Injuries Due to Pedestrian Struck by Motor Vehicle	Accident	54	Male
Blunt Force Injuries Due to Auto vs Auto Mishap	Accident	46	Male
Combined Fentanyl, Clonazepam, Flualprazolam and 4-ANPP (Despropionyl Fentanyl) Toxicity	Accident	36	Male
Blunt Force Trauma Due to Automobile vs Pickup Truck Collision	Accident	72	Female
Combined Alcohol & Chlordiazepoxide Toxicity	Accident	37	Male
Blunt Force Injuries Due to Motor Vehicle Collision	Accident	88	Female
Blunt Force Injuries Due to Motor Vehicle Collision	Accident	74	Male
Intertrochanteric Fracture of Left Proximal Femur Due To a Fall in the Nursing Home	Accident	93	Female
Fentanyl Toxicity	Accident	33	Male
Unable to Determine	Undetermined	25	Male
Ethanol & Doxepin Toxicity	Suicide	59	Male
Asphyxiation due to Hanging	Suicide	31	Male
Asphyxiation due to Hanging	Suicide	57	Male
Shotgun Wound to the Head	Suicide	39	Male
Gunshot Wound to the Head	Suicide	70	Male
Shotgun Wound to the Head	Suicide	63	Male
Gunshot Wound to the Head	Suicide	22	Male
Carbon Monoxide Toxicity	Suicide	56	Female
Gunshot Wound to the Head	Suicide	45	Female
Multiple Gunshot Wounds to the Head	Suicide	35	Male
Asphyxiation due to Hanging	Suicide	44	Male
Multiple Injuries	Suicide	40	Male
Multiple Gunshot Wounds to the Head	Homicide	1	Male
Multiple Injuries	Homicide	35	Female

## **BUDGET**

The Kendall County Coroner's Office operates on a budget from the general fund. In FY 2019 our entire operating budget was \$175,223. 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 2019, the Kendall County Coroner's Office authorized 185 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 2019, the Kendall County Coroner's Office received \$9300.00, 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 2019, the Kendall County Coroner's Office received a grant for \$4,412.00. 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 2019, the Kendall County Coroner's Office received a stipend for \$6752.97. 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 2019, the Kendall County Coroner's Office fulfilled 6 FOIA requests.

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 2019, 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. During 2019, the Coroner and/or staff of the Kendall County Coroner's Office attended 15 different trainings, provided 25 different training programs and community presentations. 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.

Coroner Purcell co-hosts, with the Kendall County Health Department, an Opioid Study Group with key stakeholders throughout the community. Kendall County has seen a significant decrease in opioid related deaths. We certainly hope to see this trend continue. Coroner Purcell also hosts a monthly meeting called 'Lights of Hope' for family and friends who have been impacted by an overdose related death. 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.

Coroner Purcell serves as an active member 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. Nearly 200 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 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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