

TITLE 31  
COUNTIES AND COUNTY LAW

CHAPTER 28  
CORONER

31-2801. INQUESTS. The coroner must hold inquests as prescribed in the Penal Code.

[(31-2801) R.S., sec. 2080; reen. R.C. & C.L., sec. 2096; C.S., sec. 3675; I.C.A., sec. 30-2301.]

31-2801A. POWERS AND DUTIES. The county coroner, who shall be a medicolegal death investigator, is charged with the responsibility of determining or certifying the cause and manner of death for those deaths properly the responsibility of the coroner. When a death is reported to the coroner, he shall have jurisdiction over the human remains for the purpose of conducting a medicolegal death investigation concerning the circumstances surrounding the death of an individual, and he shall gather and review background information, including but not limited to medical information and any other information, that may be helpful in determining or certifying the cause and manner of death.

[31-2801A, added 2025, ch. 96, sec. 3, p. 513.]

31-2802. BURIAL OR CREMATION OF UNCLAIMED BODIES. When no person takes charge of the body of the deceased within fourteen (14) days of death, the coroner shall cause the body to be decently interred or cremated; and if there is not sufficient property belonging to the estate of the deceased to pay the necessary expenses of the burial or cremation, the expenses are a legal charge against the county pursuant to the provisions of section [31-3412](#), Idaho Code.

[(31-2802) 1874, p. 566, sec. 22; am. R.S., sec. 2081; reen. R.C. & C.L., sec. 2097; C.S., sec. 3676; I.C.A., sec. 30-2302; am. 2002, ch. 57, sec. 1, p. 126; am. 2012, ch. 208, sec. 1, p. 562.]

31-2803. DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY FOUND ON CORPSE. The coroner must within thirty (30) days after an inquest upon a dead body, deliver to the county treasurer or the legal representatives of the deceased, any money or other property found upon the body.

[(31-2803) 1874, p. 566, sec. 15; R.S., sec. 2082; reen. R.C. & C.L., sec. 2098; C.S., sec. 3677; I.C.A., sec. 30-2303.]

31-2804. VERIFIED STATEMENT REQUIRED OF CORONER. Before auditing or allowing the accounts of the coroner, the commissioners must require him to file with the clerk of the board a statement in writing, verified by his affidavit, showing:

1. The amount of money or other property belonging to the estate of a deceased person which has come into his possession since his last statement.
2. The disposition made of such property.

[(31-2804) 1874, p. 566, sec. 18; R.S., sec. 2083; reen. R.C. & C.L., sec. 2099; C.S., sec. 3678; I.C.A., sec. 30-2304.]

31-2805. DISTRICT JUDGE OR WHOMEVER HE ASSIGNS TO ACT AS CORONER. If the office of coroner is vacant, or he is absent or unable to attend, the duties of his office may be discharged by any district judge or whomever he assigns for the county, with the like authority, and subject to the same obligations and penalties, as the coroner.

[(31-2805) 1874, p. 566, sec. 19; am. R.S., sec. 2084; reen. R.C. & C.L., sec. 2100; C.S., sec. 3679; I.C.A., sec. 30-2305; am. 1970, ch. 120, sec. 12, p. 284.]

31-2806. CORONER TO ACT AS SUBSTITUTE FOR SHERIFF. The coroner shall be authorized to act as the substitute for the county sheriff when the sheriff declares he is disqualified from acting due to a conflict of interest in a proceeding or matter; provided, however, that the senior deputy sheriff, as defined in section [31-2006](#), Idaho Code, shall temporarily fill the vacancy created by the death, absence or resignation of the sheriff.

[31-2806, added 1992, ch. 95, sec. 2, p. 310.]

31-2807. POWERS WHEN ACTING AS SHERIFF. Whenever the coroner acts as sheriff, he possesses the powers, and may perform all the duties, of sheriff, and is liable on his official bond, in like manner as a sheriff would be; and is entitled to the same fees as are allowed by law to the sheriff for similar services.

[(31-2807) 1874, p. 566, sec. 3; am. R.S., sec. 2086; reen. R.C. & C.L., sec. 2102; C.S., sec. 3681; I.C.A., sec. 30-2307.]

31-2808. MAKING FINAL DISPOSITION OF HUMAN REMAINS PROHIBITED. No coroner or person acting as coroner who is a licensed funeral director or a licensed mortician, owner, or proprietor of any establishment engaged in making final disposition of human remains, and no establishment with which such coroner or person acting as coroner is associated, shall, except for ambulance services, perform any of the services of a funeral director or mortician or furnish any materials connected with or incidental to the final disposition of the remains of any person whose death is required by law to be investigated by such coroner or other person acting in that capacity. Any person who violates this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Provided, however, that the provisions of this section shall not be applicable in counties wherein there is only one (1) licensed funeral establishment or in counties with a population of fewer than twenty thousand (20,000) people according to the most recent federal census.

[31-2808, added 1959, ch. 160, sec. 1, p. 381; am. 1994, ch. 105, sec. 4, p. 235; am. 2002, ch. 58, sec. 1, p. 126; am. 2022, ch. 109, sec. 1, p. 364; am. 2025, ch. 90, sec. 1, p. 407; am. 2025, ch. 96, sec. 4, p. 513.]

31-2810. CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS. (1) After January 1, 2010, each county coroner shall complete twenty-four (24) hours of continuing education on a biennial calendar basis.

(2) For the purpose of each county coroner being certified, the Idaho state association of county coroners shall either sponsor or provide courses pursuant to this section and monitor this requirement.

(3) Sponsored or approved courses shall be approved by a nationally recognized certifying body.

[31-2810, added 2010, ch. 355, sec. 3, p. 933; am. 2025, ch. 96, sec. 6, p. 514.]

31-2811. DEFINITIONS. As used in this chapter:

(1) "Burial" means the interment or entombment of dead human bodies in any manner.

(2) "Certified" means a procedure by which a third party gives written assurance that a person, product, process, or service conforms to specific requirements.

(3) "Coroner" means an elected or appointed official whose duty is to conduct and oversee medicolegal death investigations, usually for a single county, and ensure certification of cause and manner of death.

(4) "Cremation" means the reduction of human remains to bone fragments in a certified crematory by means of incineration.

(5) "Human remains" means a lifeless human body or such parts of the human body or the bones thereof from the state of which it reasonably may be concluded that death occurred or the body of a deceased person, including remains following the process of cremation, alkaline hydrolysis, or natural organic reduction. Human remains also include the body in any stage of decomposition, including but not limited to skeletal remains.

(6) "Manner of death" means a classification system based on the circumstances under which death occurred, including accident, homicide, natural, suicide, and undetermined.

(7) "Medicolegal death investigator" means a person who conducts a medicolegal death investigation.

(8) "Medicolegal death investigation" means a formal inquiry and examination, that may include fluid extraction, into the circumstances surrounding the death of a human being where investigative information is considered with autopsy findings and adjunctive studies, if performed, to determine the cause and manner of death.

[31-2811, added 2025, ch. 96, sec. 7, p. 514.]