

Frequently Asked Questions

Is the Coroner required to be notified of every death that occurs in Oconee County?

No. The coroner's office is mandated by South Carolina law to investigate deaths which are a result of violence; suspicious; sudden & unexpected; when in apparent good health; unattended by a physician; children deaths due to violence or unexpected.

Funeral homes notify this office of Hospice deaths which occur in our county when they request a burial-removal-transit permit. This office does not routinely investigate Hospice deaths unless there is suspicion the deceased did not die from the anticipated diagnosis which placed them into the Hospice program to begin with.

Is an autopsy ordered on every death reported to the coroner's office?

No. This office will review the circumstances and past medical history pertaining to the decedent prior to making a decision on ordering a complete or limited autopsy.

Where do I obtain a copy of a death certificate?

A certified death certificate may be obtained at the vital records office at the Oconee County Health Department located in Walhalla for a fee. The completed death certificate is filed in the county where the death occurred by the funeral home serving the family of the deceased.

Where can I get help if I don't have money for a burial?

Oconee County does provide some indigent burial funds which are distributed by the Department of Social Services based on established guidelines. The family should contact a funeral home in Oconee County and advise the funeral home staff immediately of their financial situation. The funeral director will advise the family of their options and will contact the Department of Social Services to see if the family qualifies for assistance.

Presently, there is no designated pauper's cemetery in Oconee County.

Where is the Oconee County Coroner's Office located?

The coroner's office is located at 60 Short Street in Walhalla directly behind the Oconee County Court House.

Where can I get the personal belongings, weapons of a deceased person?

Personal belongings that are collected by this office can be claimed by the next of kin or other personal representative by contacting the coroner's office.

Weapons belonging to the deceased are collected by the investigating law enforcement agency and may be released by that agency at the conclusion of their investigation.