

MEDICAL EXAMINER'S ANNUAL REPORT

Staff

Marcie Rosas, Dunn/ Eau Claire County Medical Examiner
Lynn Johnson, Dunn/ Eau Claire County Chief Deputy Medical Examiner

Joe Gribowski, Deputy Medical Examiner
Shaylee Miracle, Deputy Medical Examiner
Brenda Falk, Deputy Medical Examiner
Mark Pugmire, Deputy Medical Examiner (new hire)
Serena Krejchi, Deputy Medical Examiner (new hire)

ANNUAL REPORT

DUNN COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER OFFICE

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Dunn County Medical Examiner's Office is to provide a voice for the deceased by investigating and ultimately ruling on manner and cause of death. We are statutorily responsible to investigate any unexplained, unusual, or suspicious deaths. These include accidents, homicides, suicide, deaths unattended by a physician, deaths following a medical intervention, deaths within 24 hours of admission to a health care facility and deaths when the attending physician is unavailable or unwilling to sign the death certificate. We strive to provide a compassionate, complete, and accurate medicolegal investigation.

Summary of Responsibilities:

The Dunn County Medical Examiner's Office is keenly aware of the tragedy that accompanies sudden and unexpected death. Our office realizes that each case represents an individual who is deeply missed by his/her loved ones. Our investigators are trained to deliver the news of death with compassion, empathy, courtesy, and professionalism. A thorough investigation into the circumstances of death is performed. This includes complete external postmortem examination, obtaining fluid for lab studies as necessary, scene photography as indicated and determination regarding necessity for autopsy.

The Dunn County Medical Examiner's Office works diligently to:

- Promote and maintain the highest professional standards to the field of death investigation;
- Provide timely, accurate and legally defensible determinations as to cause of death;
- Issue death certificates for deaths investigated by this office;
- Conduct cremation investigations for all Dunn County and Eau Claire County deaths in which cremation is selected as a means of disposition;
- Protect the interests of deceased individuals, their loved ones, and the communities we serve.
- Work closely with partners in death investigation and family support including law enforcement, district attorney's office, corporate council, medical community and funeral homes.

Accomplishments:

- Contracted with Eau Claire County to provide 24/7 medical examiner service coverage beginning January 1, 2017.
- Development and implementation of a policy and procedure manual for our department.
- Development and implementation of training program including education of new employees and continuing education for current employees.
- Attended and participated in Suicide Death Review Team and Child Death Review Team.

Concerns:

- The biggest concern is the increased run volume and complexity of our caseload. The issues and cases we handle are diverse and numerous.

- The opioid epidemic with increasing numbers of accidental overdoses as well as increasing rates of suicides and homicides in our communities make balancing competing priorities and expectations difficult and challenging.

Restraints:

- Providing education to a newly developed department. The current training budget does not meet the training needs of the increased staff.
- In-house education must be supplemented by external education to keep current with industry best practices.

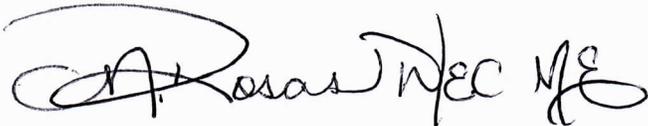
Goals and Objectives for 2018:

- Recruitment and retention of deputies to maintain 24/7 medical examiner coverage as required by Dunn and Eau Claire Counties contractual agreement and Wisconsin State Statues requirement. It is necessary to not only be fully staffed and but also trained to accommodate this coverage. The recent hiring and of two additional deputy medical examiners will accomplish this goal while taking some of the extra workload off the existing staff. This in return will set up a work environment to encourage staff retention.
- Work with surrounding county Medical Examiner's offices to create a mutual aid agreement in the event of largely catastrophic cases requiring more man power than available in individual counties. Share knowledge and solutions to like problems in surrounding counties.

Conclusion:

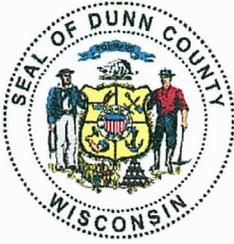
Holding the position of Medical Examiner for Dunn and Eau Claire Counties has been extremely rewarding while at the same time challenging. I am very fortunate to have a hard working, professional and dedicated staff that works together as a team to proudly and capably serve our communities.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Rosas M.E.C. M.E.", written in a cursive style.

Marcie M. Rosas
Dunn/Eau Claire Medical Examiner

Attachment



Dunn/Eau Claire County

Medical Examiner
615 Stokke Parkway, Suite G300
Menomonie, WI 54751
(715) 231-2981

Marcie Rosas, Medical Examiner
Lynn Johnson, Chief Deputy Medical Examiner

2017 Eau Claire and Dunn Statistics

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY	
Manner of Death	Count
Accident	72
Homicide	3
Natural	1086
Pending	11
Suicide	19
Undetermined	1

DUNN COUNTY	
Manner of Death	Count
Accident	14
Natural	258
Pending	1
Suicide	8