

Public Relations

The OCME public relations is handled through the Public Information Office is the official public information arm of the agency. Public relations inquiries concerning any death, autopsy or related findings must be referred to the Chief Medical Examiner (CME), Chief of Staff or Public Information Officer (PIO). All Public Relations personnel described above must follow District Customer Service Standards in responding to inquiries

All inquiries regarding obtaining information or records related to medical examiner cases are handled according to the Recordkeeping and Retention Policies and Procedures. See Recordkeeping and Retention Policies and Procedures.

A. Next of Kin/Family

Any inquiries from next of kin/family members or legal agents/representatives of next of kin/family concerning any death, autopsy or related findings must be referred to the appropriate administrator; the medical examiner/investigator who has been assigned to the case; or the General Counsel.

B. Media

The Public Information Office (PIO) responds to all media-related (i.e., news, radio, television, print, Internet) inquiries. If the PIO is unavailable, the inquiries should be referred to the Chief of Staff. The CME, Deputy Chief of Staff, Chief of Staff or the PIO are the only employees authorized to interact with the media in responding to inquiries. Only the cause and manner of death are provided to media on any medical examiner case.

C. General Public

Inquiries from the general public regarding death investigation (i.e., cause and manner of death; autopsy reports etc.) should be referred to the PIO. Autopsy reports and associated information (i.e., cause and manner of death) are not provided to the general public. Only the next of kin, law enforcement or the Mayor's administrative offices are provided such information.

D. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests are forwarded the FOIA Officer.