



ARKANSAS STATE CRIME LABORATORY

Letter from the Director



Asa Hutchinson
Governor

Kermit B. Channell, II
Executive Director

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In Arkansas, like most states, the medicolegal investigation of unusual, suspicious, sudden and unexplained, violent, and non-natural deaths is performed by a Coroner or a Medical Examiner.

In cases that come under the classifications above, the Coroners, Law Enforcement and the Arkansas State Crime Laboratory's Medical Examiner's Office work hand-in-hand to help answer the question of "what is the cause and manner of death?"

Quoting from the Coroner's Creed:

"Birth and death are the only two universal human experiences. Death, on the other hand, is the most important legal event for all human beings. When it occurs, all legal rights and duties devolving upon the person during his life span in a civilized jurisdiction are terminated. All persons with whom the deceased had legal relations at that moment in time are also directly affected by the occurrence of death."

"The Office of the Coroner, or the Office of Medical Examiner, along with the state-licensed physician is legally charged with significant duties answering the pertinent questions relating to death: Who, Where, When, What, How, Why. Only when these questions have been answered correctly can all the proper legal issues arising at death be effectively handled for the proper administration of justice. Please take this opportunity to meet our staff, discuss and learn relevant issues that will benefit death investigations throughout the state."

The Arkansas State Crime Laboratory would like to welcome all new Coroners as well as those of you who have served the state of Arkansas in this very important role.

We look forward to working with you all in the spirit of the Coroner's Creed and will continue to be a resource for all Arkansas Coroners.

Sincerely,

Kermit B. Channell II
Executive Director