

Next of Kin/Insurance/Legal Records Request

Legal Next of Kin

Our office will provide **one set** of our Coroner investigation reports, along with autopsy and toxicology findings, **if applicable, to the next-of-kin on record, without charge.** This is usually the next of kin listed on the initial death notification. **Any subsequent requests from other next of kin will incur a fee.** **These records are not for insurance or litigation use.** Each page will be marked with that disclaimer.

To request a report, please complete the form below and submit a copy of a valid state-issued driver's license or identification card. Other forms of identification are not accepted. To be considered valid, it must reflect your current address, not expired, and match the name you are using on the submission form.

Once completed, the form may be submitted to the Polk County Coroner's Office by fax, email, or by mailing it directly to the coroner's office at 102 E Broadway St., Box 10, Bolivar, MO 65613. Once we receive your request, we will contact you to let you know the timeframe for the release of records and to verify whether you will pick up the records at our office or if we will email them via encryption, requiring identification and a signature.

Second Request or Other than Next-of-Kin

Fee Explanation

Section 610.026.1(1), RSMo, allows a public governmental body to charge up to 10 cents per page for standard paper copies, the average hourly rate of pay for clerical staff to duplicate documents, and the actual cost of research time to fulfill the request. This provision also requires that the public governmental body use the lowest-salaried employees capable of searching, researching, and copying the records. Fees for accessing records on other media, or non-standard paper copies, shall reflect the actual cost involved. The requester may wish to ask for a breakdown of the costs associated with the request to determine how the public governmental body arrived at the final charge.

610.205. Crime scene photographs and video recordings are closed records when disclosure to next of kin or by court order is inapplicable. Describing photographs and video recordings, including photographs and video recordings created or produced by a state or local agency or by a perpetrator or suspect at a crime scene, which depict or

describe a deceased person in a state of dismemberment, decapitation, or similar mutilation including, without limitation, where the deceased person's genitalia are exposed, shall be considered closed records and shall not be subject to disclosure.

This form is used when a legal next of kin requests a case/coroner report and investigative records. One set of records is provided to the next of kin at no charge. Any subsequent requests will incur a fee. Please keep the following in mind when making your request.

1. These records are not for use as insurance or legal proceedings and will be marked accordingly.
2. When making the request, you must submit a valid state identification, such as a driver's license.
3. Once our office receives the request, you will be contacted regarding when the records will be ready for release.
4. Records may be limited or not released until adjudicated if this is an open or criminal case.

If you have any questions, please contact our office before completing the request.

Insurance or Legal Records Request

This same form is used when an insurance company or legal representative requests a coroner report and investigative records and must be marked "**Attorney/Legal**" under *Purpose of Request* to avoid being marked "**Not for Insurance or Legal Purposes.**" **There is a fee for records, which must be paid before any records are released.** Please keep the following in mind when making your request.

1. A signature from the legal next of kin is required.
2. When making the request, you must submit the release form and company letterhead or business card.
3. Once our office receives the request, you will be contacted regarding when the records will be ready for release.
4. Records may be limited or not released until adjudicated if this is an open or criminal case.

If you have any questions, please contact our office before completing the request.

Fee Breakdown

\$0.10 per page plus 2 hours to locate, copy, redact, prepare, refill, and deliver; plus, actual time to research, plus 2% of the actual cost of autopsy or toxicology conducted, or \$150 maximum for standard record request.

Effective July 10, 2026

Average Cost per Request

Case Report	\$41.50
Case Report with Toxicology Only	\$100.00
Case Report with Autopsy and Toxicology	\$125.00
Report Preparation and Postage	\$15.00

Please Make All Checks Payable to “The Polk County Coroner”