



# Seattle Police Department Policy Manual



## 16.050 – Death Notifications

Original Effective Date: 06/20/2003

**Revised Effective Date: 03/01/2023**

### 16.050-POL

According to [RCW 68.50.300](#), the Medical Examiner's Office conducts next-of-kin notifications for most deaths occurring in King County. Occasionally, the Seattle Police Department is asked to conduct a notification, or to convey an emergency message. To the extent that the request will not interfere with either the statutory duties of the medical examiner or any investigation, the department will attempt to provide this service to the community.

#### 1. Sworn Employees Notifying Next-of-Kin

When requested to do so, sworn employees will notify next-of-kin in the event of a death or imminent death of a person. It is recognized that these notifications are "crisis" service calls; therefore, sworn employees may take any reasonable action to assist the person through what is often an overwhelming time (this may include transport, phone calls, chaplain services, etc.).

In the case of a sworn employee's death see manual section [3.050 – Coordinating Officer Fatalities](#).

### 16.050-PRO-1

#### Chief Dispatcher

1. **Notifies** the appropriate watch lieutenant of a request to provide a notification, and the nature or circumstances of the notification.

#### Watch Lieutenant

2. **Determines** whether to approve the request. Generally, notifications for deaths occurring within King County will be handled by the medical examiner. If approved, the watch lieutenant will direct the chief dispatcher to dispatch the call, or alternatively, may elect to personally handle the notification.

# Seattle Police Department Policy Manual

3. **Personally notifies** the next-of-kin of a non-sworn employee's death or serious injury.