Office of the Coroner
1047 MacArthur Road, Suite 200
Reading, PA 19605
610 – 478 – 3280
Fax: 610 – 478 – 3289
Ride-Along Administrator

Berks County Coroner's Office Ride-Along Program

About the Program

The Berks County Coroner's Office Ride-Along Program is for individuals who have an interest in pursuing a career in forensic science or death investigation. This program provides participants with the opportunity to observe the daily responsibilities of a Deputy Coroner during a scheduled shift.

Ride-alongs are **observational only** and are not considered employment, training, or an internship. Participation does not guarantee future opportunities with the Berks County Coroner's Office.

What Participants May Observe

Depending on call volume and case circumstances, participants may observe:

- Responses to death scenes alongside a Deputy Coroner
- External examinations of decedents
- Documentation and investigative processes
- Coordination with law enforcement, EMS, medical staff, and funeral homes
- Procedures related to transportation and custody of decedents

Each shift is different. Some ride-alongs may involve minimal activity, while others may include multiple calls or emotionally challenging situations.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for a ride-along, individuals must:

- Be **at least 18 years of age**
- Have an interest in forensic science, death investigation, criminal justice, or a related field
- Be able to conduct themselves professionally in sensitive and potentially graphic environments
- Comply with all policies and procedures of the Berks County Coroner's Office

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Required Paperwork

Prior to participation, individuals must complete and submit:

- A **Hold Harmless / Release of Liability Agreement**
- A **Confidentiality Agreement**
- Any required background checks or clearances, as determined by the Berks County Coroner's Office

All documentation must be approved before a ride-along can be scheduled.

Professional Conduct & Dress Code

Participants are expected to:

- Maintain respectful and professional behavior at all times
- Follow all instructions provided by Coroner's Office personnel
- Wear professional attire suitable for field work (specific guidance will be provided prior to the scheduled shift)

Additional Information

- Ride-alongs are scheduled based on staff availability and operational needs
- Participation may be limited or discontinued at any time due to safety concerns or case sensitivity
- Certain scenes or procedures may not be appropriate for observation

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Acknowledgment

By applying for and participating in the Ride-Along Program, individuals acknowledge that death investigation work may involve exposure to deceased individuals, graphic scenes, and emotionally difficult situations. Participants agree to respect the privacy of decedents and their families and to maintain strict confidentiality.