



Ripley County Coroner's Office

Ronald L. Reynolds, Jr. – Coroner

Jason R. Smith – Chief Deputy

P.O. Box 362
102 West First North Street
Versailles, IN 47042

(812) 621-2309 Phone
(812) 689-5555 Dispatch
(812) 609-4719 Fax

2016 Annual Statistical Report

This report provides a statistical report of the deaths certified by the Ripley County Coroner's Office in the year 2016. The coroner "speaks for the dead". The Coroner is an independent investigative agent who has been given constitutional powers usually reserved for officers of the court. They can issue subpoenas for records or call witnesses. They can order autopsies to be done and toxicological examinations to be completed upon the body. The Ripley County Coroner's Office is on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The coroner, who has the responsibility of making a positive identification of the deceased and certifying as to the cause and manner of death, conducts a parallel investigation with jurisdictional law enforcement agencies.

Duties of a county coroner (as required by Indiana Code IC 36-2-14):

- 1) IDENTIFICATION of deceased
 - Identification may be as easy as having a family member at the scene when you get there or as difficult as having only a few bones to work with and having to utilize one of many experts available to coroner's.
- 2) Determination of CAUSE of death
 - Cause of death is the final factor or event that happened to the deceased. If this had not happened, the individual would still be alive. This may be a cascade of factors or events, one following the other and this will be reflected on the death certificate that the coroner files with the county health department.
- 3) Determination of the MANNER of death
 - Manner of death is descriptive grouping. It is a universally accepted acknowledgement of how people die.
 - Homicide
 - Suicide
 - Accident
 - Natural
 - Undetermined

Staff

Ronald L. Reynolds, Jr., MDI
Jason R. Smith, MDI
Christopher Decker, MDI
Brian Maynard

Coroner
Chief Deputy Coroner
Deputy Coroner
Deputy Coroner

2016 General Statistics

Ripley County population (<i>US Census July 2015 estimation</i>)	28,701
Total Ripley County deaths	268
Number of deaths investigated/certified	57
Scene Investigations	38
Percentage of total deaths that were investigated/certified (57/268)	21.2%
Number of deaths where original incident occurred in another county	0
Number of postmortem examinations	14
Percentage of investigated/certified deaths having an exam	24.6%
Complete autopsies	14
Partial autopsies	0
External examinations	0
Number of toxicology tests performed	25
Percentage of investigated/certified deaths having a toxicology test	43.9%
Gender of deaths investigated/certified	
Male	38
Female	19
Race of deaths investigated/certified	
Caucasian	56
Black	1
Hispanic	0
Native American	0
Other	0
Age of deaths investigated/certified	
0-19	1
20-39	13
40-59	9
=/ $>$ 60	34
Additional Information	
Unidentified bodies	0
Unclaimed bodies	0
Exhumations	0

Manner of Death (*investigated/certified deaths*)

Natural	35
Accident	17
Suicide	4
Homicide	1
Undetermined	0

Number of coroner certified deaths *(annual comparison)*

2016	57
2015	40
2014	34
2013	31
2012	33
2011	32
2010	37
2009	33
2008	36