

# RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL

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Ord 1033

WASHOE COUNTY  
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PROOF OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF NEVADA  
COUNTY OF WASHOE

ss. Tana Ciccotti

being duly sworn, deposes and says:  
That as legal clerk of the RENO GAZETTE-  
JOURNAL, a daily newspaper published in Reno,  
Washoe County, State of Nevada, that the notice:  
adoption of ordinance

of which a copy is hereto attached, has been  
published in each regular and entire issue of  
said newspaper on the following dates to wit:  
Aug. 19, 26, 1998

Signed

*Sue Dummer*

Subscribed and sworn to before me on

Notary Public

*Sandra Taylor*



P.O. BOX 22000. RENO. NEVADA 89520  
(702) 788-6200



NOTICE OF ADOPTION  
WASHOE COUNTY ORDINANCE  
NO. 1033  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT: Bill  
No. 1209 Ordinance No. 1033 entitled  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAP-  
TER 35 OF THE WASHOE COUNTY  
CODE BY MAKING CERTAIN  
CHANGES TO THE JURISDICTIONAL  
AUTHORITY OF THE CORONER TO  
INVESTIGATE THE DEATHS OF PER-  
SONS UNDER CERTAIN  
CIRCUMSTANCES  
was adopted on August 11, 1998, by  
Commissioners Joanne Bond, Sue  
Camp, Jim Galloway, Mike Moullet,  
and Jim Shaw, and will become  
effective on Friday, August 28, 1998.  
Typewritten copies of the ordinance  
are available for inspection by all  
interested persons at the office of the  
County Clerk, 75 Court Street, Reno,  
Nevada.  
BETTY J. LEWIS,  
Washoe County Clerk  
No. 3529 Aug. 19, 26, 1998

8/28/98  
PLEASE STAMP & SIGN FOR PAYMENT

SUMMARY: Amends Washoe County Code by making certain changes to the jurisdictional authority of the coroner to investigate the deaths of persons under certain circumstances.

BILL NO. 1209

ORDINANCE NO. 1033

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 35 OF THE WASHOE COUNTY CODE BY MAKING CERTAIN CHANGES TO THE JURISDICTIONAL AUTHORITY OF THE CORONER TO INVESTIGATE THE DEATHS OF PERSONS UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF WASHOE DO ORDAIN:

SECTION 1. Section 35.170 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

35.170 Jurisdictional authority of coroner.

1. The coroner shall determine the cause and manner of death of any person reported to him as having died as a result of violence or trauma, having suddenly died under circumstances whereby the cause of death is obscure, having died under such circumstances as to afford reasonable grounds to suspect or infer that death has been caused or occasioned by the act of another, having died under circumstances affording reasonable grounds to suspect that the death has been occasioned by unnatural, unlawful or suspicious means, having committed suicide or when the cause and circumstances of a death are of concern to the public health, safety or welfare.

2. The coroner shall go to the location of and investigate the death of any person reported to him as having died in any of the manners specified in subsection 1, or where the public health, safety or welfare require. The coroner shall also investigate all deaths which have occurred under the following circumstances:

(a) Death apparently due, entirely or in part, to a factor other than natural disease. These include homicidal, suicidal or accidental deaths or deaths due in part to remote or recent trauma, chemicals, violence or mechanical, thermal, electrical or radiational injury.

(b) Unattended death, persons found dead, or sudden unexpected death not caused by readily recognized disease.

(c) Death wherein the deceased has not been attended by a physician in the 20 days preceding death.

(d) Death occurring during the course of hospitalization of less than 12 hours' duration.

(e) Death occurring while a person is under general or local anesthesia or death occurring within an operating or recovery room.

(f) Death alleged to have been caused iatrogenically or by medical malpractice.

(g) Death apparently caused by acute alcoholism, narcotics or by the effects of other drugs or agents, including any death in which the diagnosis is suspected to be homologous serum jaundice, agranulocytosis, aplastic anemia or any other possible complication of drug therapy or toxic exposure.

(h) Death occurring while a person is in a place of incarceration or while under sentence, or within the custody of peace officers, including deaths of inmates of public institutions hospitalized therein for treatment other than for organic disease.

(i) Death due to abortion or during child birth.

(j) Stillbirths of fetuses of 20 or more weeks' gestation if unattended by a physician.

(k) Death apparently due to neglect, exposure or starvation.

(l) Death in a nursing home or other institution without recent (within 20 days) medical attendance.

(m) Death apparently due to an infectious or contagious disease or other hazards to the public health if the diagnosis and extent of the disease are undetermined at the time of death.

(n) Death which is possibly attributable to environmental exposure or which may be related to the decedent's occupation.

(o) Death of any child under 18 years of age, where medical history has not established some preexisting condition consistent with sudden death.

(p) Unclaimed, exposed or otherwise unidentified, or fragmentary remains. The Coroner is also authorized to decently dispose of unclaimed remains pursuant to this section and the laws of the State of Nevada.

3. Whenever the coroner conducts an investigation pursuant to this section, and before he signs a death certificate, he shall determine the cause and manner of death and shall sign and certify the cause of death on the death certificate or shall certify that the cause of death cannot be determined with reasonable medical certainty.

4. When reasonable grounds exist to believe that a death has been caused by the criminal act of another, the coroner shall furnish all necessary assistance to the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the location where the body of the deceased is found. In such cases, the coroner shall determine the cause and manner of the death and the law enforcement agency shall determine the identity of the person or persons responsible

for the death and submit that information to the appropriate prosecuting authority.

[§7, Ord. No. 273; A Ord. Nos. 336, 455]

Proposed on the 14th day of July 1998.

Proposed by Commissioner Jim Galloway.

Passed on the 11th day of August 1998.

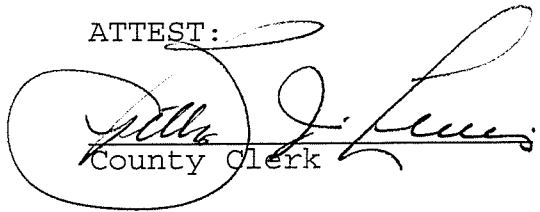
Vote:

Ayes: **Joanne Bond, Sue Camp, Jim Galloway  
Mike Mouliot, Jim Shaw**

Nays:

Absent:

  
Chairman  
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:  
  
County Clerk

This ordinance shall be in force and effect from and after the 28th day of August, 1998.