

Dr. Kelly Lear, M.D.

Coroner, Arapahoe County Colorado



CONTACT

Arapahoe County Coroner's Facility
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Dr. Kelly Lear, M.D., is serving her first full term as Arapahoe County Coroner.

Dr. Lear was elected to oversee the County office that is responsible for investigating deaths that fall under the Coroner's jurisdiction, and as the Coroner and Forensic Pathologist, she is responsible for performing autopsies, determining the cause and manner of death, supervising medicolegal death investigations, and providing expert witness testimony and consultation to the District Attorney's Office. Her office works on behalf of the deceased to obtain the truth about their death, and seeks to support families in crisis and grief with compassion and professionalism.

Dr. Lear is a forensic pathologist with significant training and experience in medicolegal autopsies and death investigations. She worked as the County's Forensic Pathologist and Chief Deputy Coroner for 10 years. She was first affiliated with the Coroner's Office as a medical student more than 20 years ago.

Dr. Lear is committed to a high standard of service and compassion. She also is dedicated to increasing awareness about preventable deaths through community outreach and collaboration. She is a leading member of the Colorado and Arapahoe County Child Fatality Prevention Review teams and she also serves on Arapahoe County's Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force and Suicide Prevention Task Force.

Dr. Lear is board-certified in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology and Forensic Pathology by the American Board of Pathology and is licensed to practice medicine by the Colorado Board of Medical Examiners.

She has performed more than 3,500 medicolegal examinations, and has served as an expert witness in more than 100 criminal proceedings. She has published numerous peer-reviewed articles in national forensic and medical journals, and she lectures locally and nationally to diverse audiences ranging from high school students to practicing physicians.

Kelly is a Colorado native raised in Colorado Springs. She lives in Littleton with her daughter.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Arapahoe County Coroner (2014, 2015-2018)
- Chief Deputy Coroner; Forensic Pathologist, Arapahoe County Coroner's Office (2004-2014)
- Clinical Faculty Member, University of Colorado Department of Pathology and Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Fellow in Forensic Pathology, University of New Mexico Office of the Medical Investigator (2003-2004)
- Fellow in Surgical Pathology, Chief Resident, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center (2002-2003)
- Resident in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center (1998-2002)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- National Association of Medical Examiners
- American Academy of Forensic Sciences
- College of American Pathologists
- Colorado Homicide Investigators Association
- Colorado Coroners Association

COMMITTEE/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Sudden Unexpected Death in Childhood Medical and Investigative Advisory Board
- Academic Forensic Pathology Journal Editorial Board
- Colorado State Child Fatality Review Team
- Arapahoe County Child Fatality Review Team
- Arapahoe County Not One More Child Community Coalition
- Governor's Expert Emergency Epidemic Response Committee
- Arapahoe County Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force/Tricounty Opioid Prevention Partnership
- Arapahoe County Suicide Prevention Task Force
- Tri-County Health Department Health Care Coalition
- North Central Region Fatality Management Committee
- Littleton Public Schools - Parent Teacher Organization Classroom Volunteer; School Accountability Committee Member

EDUCATION

- Doctor of Medicine, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center School of Medicine
- Bachelor of Arts in Biology, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Cornell College