

National Organizations for Specialized Services/Information

American Bio-Recovery Association ABRA <https://americanbiorecovery.org/>

ABRA is the only third party, nonprofit organization dedicated to the education and certification of biohazard/crime scene cleanup businesses. Member companies and certified technicians are vetted through a peer review third party process to bolster consumer confidence in the selection of a crime scene cleanup service. ABRA assists consumers nationally and internationally. (Phone: 888-979-2272)

Anatomy Bequest Program <https://med.umn.edu/research/anatomy-bequest-program>

The University of Minnesota Medical School accepts whole-body donations to support medical research and education for health professionals.
(Phone: 612-626-2935)

Body Donation Mayo Clinic <https://www.mayoclinic.org/body-donation/making-donation>

The gift of whole-body donation is authorized by the next of kin with a proper request. The gift of the body will facilitate the study of anatomy and function and advance new surgeries. (Phone: 480-301-8000)

Bureau of Consular Affairs (BCA)- <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/while-abroad/death-abroad1.html>

The BCA attempts to locate and inform next-of-kin in the U.S. of the death of their U.S. citizen/relative who has died overseas. They also help with planning for local burial or return of the remains to the U.S., subject to U.S. and local (foreign) law, U.S. and foreign customs requirements, and foreign country facilities which are often vastly different than those at home.

Civil Legal Aid for Victims of Crime (CLAVC)

<https://www.masslegalservices.org/system/files/library/What%20happens%20to%20a%20homicide%20victim%27s%20property%20and%20debts.2019.pdf>

CLAVC is an online booklet created through the Civil Legal Aid for Victims of Crime Initiative to answer frequent questions. It specifically deals with the question of “What happens to a homicide victim’s property and debts?” It is based out of Massachusetts.

Cold Case Foundation (CCF) <https://www.coldcasefoundation.org/>

The Cold Case Foundation is a resource free to the public for homicide cases, missing persons and unidentified bodies. Their mission is to provide hope and resources to families affected by violent crime. The Foundation is made up of FBI agents, law enforcement, and forensic experts.

Combined DFNA Index System. (CODIS) <https://www.fbi.gov/services/laboratory/biometric-analysis/codis/codis-and-ndis-fact-sheet/>

CODIS is an FBI database providing support for criminal justice DNA databases. It is primarily used by law enforcement. It has three levels: local DNA systems where DNA profiles originate, state DNA systems that allow laboratories within the state to share information, and the national DNA system for comparisons between different states.

Cremation.com - <https://www.cremation.com/>

Cremation.com is a service that provides state-by-state listings of crematoriums by zip code.

Death Penalty Information Center, Executed But Possibly Innocent (DPIC) -

<https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/policy-issues/innocence/executed-but-possibly-innocent>

DPIC has assembled a detailed list of twenty prisoners who have been executed since 1976 who were possibly innocent.

Department of State's Office of Overseas Citizens Services -

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/emergencies.html>

Department of State's Office of Overseas Citizens Services helps U.S. citizens for the transportation of a deceased relative back to the U.S. when they have died abroad. Certain documents will be needed. (Phone 888-407-4747 or from overseas +1-202-501-4444). (A local funeral home is another help in this.)

DNA Doe Project - <https://dnadoeproject.org/>

The DNA Doe Project is an all-volunteer new initiative to use genetic genealogy to identify "John and Jane Does" to help law enforcement agencies and medical examiners nationally solve difficult cases, even with highly degraded or low quantity DNA. Genetic genealogists help reunite John and Jane Does with families.

Doe Network - <http://www.doenetwork.org/>

The Doe Network is a volunteer organization devoted to assisting investigating agencies in bringing closure to national and international cold cases of missing and unidentified people. Their mission is to give the nameless back their names and return the missing to their families.

Emergency 911 Abroad -https://travel.state.gov/content/dam/students-abroad/pdfs/911_ABROAD.pdf

Emergency contact information is available in this chart for ambulance, fire, or police around the world. Not every country uses 911.

Eye Bank Association of America <https://restoresight.org/cornea-donation/understanding-cornea-donation/>

Eye Bank Association of America restores sight to patients suffering from cornea blindness which is only possible through cornea donation. The donation must happen within 12 hours from the time of death. (Phone: 202-775-4999)

Forensic Anthropology Center, University of Tennessee <https://fac.utk.edu/body-donation/>

The Department of Anthropology accepts some whole-body donations to facilitate research, training, and service in forensic anthropology and closely related fields. (Phone: 865-974-4408)

FTC Funeral Rule Consumer Information <https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0300>

The Rule (enforced by the Federal Trade Commission) helps compare prices among funeral homes and makes it possible to select only those goods and services wanted or needed and to pay only for those selected.

Funeral Consumers Alliance <https://funerals.org>

Funeral Consumers Alliance is the only national consumer organization that monitors the funeral industry, keeping a close eye on industry trends and advocating for fair practices on behalf of consumers. It argues for regulatory reform on the local, state, and national levels. It spells out consumer rights. It is staffed by a network of volunteers. (Phone: 802-865-8300)

ICF International - <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/244084.pdf>

ICF completed a study on the impact of exonerations of wrongfully incarcerated inmates on crime victims in 2012.

Innocence Project <https://innocenceproject.org/>

The Innocence Project exonerates the wrongly convicted through DNA testing and reforms the criminal justice system to prevent future injustice.

Marsy's Law: <https://www.marsyslaw.us/>

Marsy's Law is active in many states in the US. The aim is to bring meaningful, enforceable constitutional rights to victims of crime. In states where it has been adopted, it ensures notification of specific public proceedings throughout the criminal justice process, that the homicide victim is made aware of their rights, gives them a right to address the court before sentencing, at parole hearings, and so on. The link provides for a searchable database by state.

National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) <https://content.naic.org/>

The NAIC serves to protect the public interest by promoting competitive insurance markets and improve state regulation of insurance. They have a consumer division to help homeowners with a disputed denial of benefits for crime scene clean up. (Phone: 816-842-3600)

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). <https://www.missingkids.org/>

NCMEC is a broad computerized database for criminal justice information such as criminal record history information, fugitives, stolen property and missing persons. It is primarily used by law enforcement. (Phone: 1-800-843-5678)

National Crime Information Center (NCIC) <https://www.ncic.com/>

This is an FBI-administered website for law enforcement that accepts reports of missing persons. It maintains a database of criminal justice information (i.e., criminal record history information, fugitives, and missing persons).

(Phone: 304-625-2000 Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm EDT)

National Crime Victim Bar Association <https://www.victimbar.org>

The National Crime Victim Bar Association provides information on civil lawsuits for people/families seeking financial compensation from the offender or others whose unreasonable conduct gave rise to conditions that allowed the crime to occur. (Phone: 202-467-8753)

National Home Funeral Alliance (NHFA): State Requirements for Home Funerals -

<https://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/home-funeral-laws.html>

NHFA offers website assistance on understanding the process and laws about funerals at home in a private residence. The guide is intended to let home funeral families know what legal requirements are on the books in each state—either **statutes** that apply to all or **regulations** that fall under the state Mortuary Board's set of procedures applicable for licensed funeral directors only.

National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) <https://namus.nij.ojp.gov>

NamUS is a free national clearinghouse and resource center for missing, unclaimed, and unidentified person cases across the U.S. It is open to the public.

National News Media Council (NCC) <https://mediacouncil.ca/complaint/>

The NCC accepts complaints about the mishandling of news reports within Canada. This site describes what kinds of complaints they look into. They recommend we first contact the editor of the newsroom to express concerns. They have an online complaint form and provide guidelines in answering it. (Phone: 416-340-1981).

Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) <https://ovc.ojp.gov/>

This OVC website is authored by the Office of Justice Programs. It provides factual data, general guidelines on grief, directs the reader to additional resources, and has a downloadable brochure on homicide. This site also provides contact information for victim advocates across the U.S. and abroad. (Phone: 800-851-3420)

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency

Prevention: <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/programs/missing-and-exploited-children>

This organization partners with other groups to help locate and return missing children. In addition, it has a missing child emergency response checklist of actions for families to take if a child goes missing. (Phone: 202-307-5911)

Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/>

This is an official US government website to provide information and oversight for organ procurement and transplantation, administered in collaboration with the Health Resources and Services Administration and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Privacy and Dignity: A guide to interacting with the media <https://victimsofcrime.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Privacy-and-Dignity-final.pdf>

This document was developed in connection with the National Center for Victims of Crime. It provides information for victims and victim advocates and even tips on organizing a press conference. (Phone 202-467-8700)

Probate Court After Murder-Suicide Fact Sheet – Georgia <https://gcfv.georgia.gov>

Probating an estate in Georgia is summarized in a one-page face sheet published in coordination with the Office on Violence Against Women and administered by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

Seven Pounds - <https://www.sevenponds.com/after-death/planning-a-home-funeral>

Seven pounds is one of several websites which provides information on having a funeral in a private residence rather than a funeral home. (Phone: 415-431-3717 9am – 5pm PST)

Social Security Survivor Benefits <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/survivors/ifyou.html#h1>

SSI website is specific to survivors who need information on death benefits as a surviving spouse or parent. (Alternatively, the funeral home director can help as well or visit the local Social Security Office.) (Phone: 1-800-772-1213)

The Committee for Missing Children, Inc. <https://findthekids.org/recover-a-missing-child/>

This website provides emergency information to guide parents in their first steps toward recovering a missing child. (Phone 1-800-525-8204)

United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS): <https://unos.org/>

UNOS is a nonprofit, mission-driven scientific and educational organization created for organ donation and transplantation. Among its many duties, it manages the transplantation list, matches donors to recipients, maintains a database, and helps policies that make the best use of the limited supply of organs and living tissue. (Phone: 804-782-4800 or 888-894-6361)

US Department of Veteran Affairs <https://www.va.gov/survivors/faqs.asp#FAQ1>

US Dept of Veteran Affairs, on this page, will help military survivors/dependents with learning about survivor benefits day or night. This page lists frequently asked questions, how to apply, check the status of a claim, and other important information. They will ask for DD Form 214 (to show discharge status) for retirees. Unfortunately, the Department of Veterans Affairs does not maintain copies of service records. DD Form 2656-7 is the VA form used to establish the Survivor Benefit Plan after the death of an active, reserve, or retired service member. (Phone: 800-273-8255 Select 1)

Utah Homicide Survivors <http://www.utahhomicidesurvivors.org/our-services.html>

Utah Homicide Survivors is a non-profit organization that helps guide families of homicide victims through probate to legally obtain the assets that are rightfully theirs. (Phone 801-500-9077)

Veteran Administration Benefits <https://www.va.gov/family-member-benefits/>

VA website will provide information on benefits for spouses, dependents, survivors, and family caregivers. The intention is to help pay for health costs, school, burial costs, and survivor compensation. (Phone: 800-827-1000)