

Grief Guide Kenosha County



Kenosha County extends its deepest sympathies for your loss. Facing the death of a loved one can leave you feeling overwhelmed and emotionally stressed. This guide is designed to help you in the days, weeks, and months following the death of your loved one. It provides immediate next steps, including funeral planning resources and options, as well as information about support groups and other community resources you may wish to access in the months to come. We extend our deepest sympathies to you and your family.

~ Kenosha County Medical Examiner's Office and community partners

The agencies/companies listed are not authorized or recommended by the Kenosha County Medical Examiner's Office (KCMEO), but are provided as a convenience to those who request information only. It is not meant to be an exhaustive or complete list, and there may be other organizations available to provide this service. The KCMEO cannot recommend or authorize any vendors or providers, nor can we comment on the quality, pricing, or business practices of any vendor or provider. Purchase or receipt of any products or services arranged by consumers with any of these organizations is strictly between the consumer and the vendor.

FUNERAL PLANNING

Kenosha County Funeral Homes

Bruch Funeral Home	Casey Family Options	Haase, Lockwood &
3503 Roosevelt Road	3016 – 75 th Street	Associates Funeral
Kenosha, WI 53142	Kenosha, WI 53142	Home
262-652-8298	262-653-0667	620 Legion Drive
		Twin Lakes, WI 53181

262-877-3013

Hansen – Lendman	Kenosha Funeral	Piasecki – Althaus
Funeral Home	Services	Funeral Home
6019 – 7 th Avenue	8226 Sheridan Road	3720 – 39 th Avenue
Kenosha, WI 53143	Kenosha, WI 53143	Kenosha, WI 53144
262-654-2136	262-652-1943	262-658-4101

Proko Funeral Home 5111 – 60th Street Kenosha, WI 53144 262-654-3533

Funeral Planning Assistance

Funeral directors can help guide you through the funeral planning process. Ask questions so you understand what services you are being charged for. Cost varies between funeral homes and whether you chose burial or cremation. A funeral or memorial services is unique to individual but should be memorable and meaningful, honoring the individual being remembered.

National Funeral Directors Association Helpline 1-800-228-NFDA (1-800-228-6332) can assist you with funeral planning, resources, information and support for your grief.

Kenosha County Medical Examiner's Office

http://www.kenoshacounty.org/377/Medical-Examiners-Office

Kenosha County Funeral Assistance

Kenosha County provides funeral or cremation assistance in some circumstances. Please consult your funeral director for how to apply for state or county funeral assistance.

Organ & Tissue Donation

Wisconsin Donor Network

Blood Center of Wisconsin is home to the Wisconsin Donor Network, a federally designated organ procurement organization supporting the transplant community in eastern Wisconsin. 1-800-722-8230 or 414-937-6999

https://www.bcw.edu/bcw/Organ-Tissue-Marrow/index.htm

American Tissue Services Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to caring for families and helping them heal from the death of their loved ones. Jeanette Potts

(920) 738-6620 office or (920) 209-9040 cell or jpotts@atsfoundation.org http://www.atsfoundation.org/index.html

Burials

Kenosha County Cemeteries

Kenosha County has 32 cemeteries. Visit www.graveyards.com for a complete list.

Grave Markers

Grave markers also known as headstones can be purchased through a cemetery or a private organization. Cost can vary from hundreds of dollars to many thousands of dollars. Check with the cemetery you chose before purchasing a headstone.

Green Burials

Green or natural burial is a way of caring for the dead with minimal environmental impact that aids in the conservation of natural resources, reduction of carbon emissions, protection of worker health, and the restoration and/or preservation of habitat. Green burial necessitates the use of non-toxic and biodegradable materials, such as caskets, shrouds, and urns. http://www.greenburialcouncil.org/. Right now in Wisconsin, green burials are only available in Madison & Milwaukee.

VETERAN RESOURCES

If you or your loved one is and/or was a veteran, you may be eligible for a variety of survivor's benefits. Contact the Veterans Administration for more information.

Resources

www.va.gov

Kenosha County Division of Veterans Services 8600 Sheridan Rd Suite700 Kenosha WI 53143-6516 262-605-6690 http://www.kenoshacounty.org/368/Veterans

GRIEF & BEREAVEMENT RESOURCES

Child Loss

Infant Death Center provides bereavement support and resources to WI families and others affected by the sudden and unexpected death of an infant

www.chawisconsin.org 414-337-4571 Miss Foundation is a volunteer based organization providing. [counseling, advocacy, research, and education] services to families experiencing the death of a child

www.missfoundation.org 1-602-279-MISS (6477) 1-888-455-MISS (6477) info@missfoundation.org Share: Pregnancy and Infant Loss
Support, Inc. is a community
for anyone who experiences the
tragic death of a baby. We often
serve parents, grandparents,
siblings, and others in the family
as well as the professionals who
care for grieving families
http://nationalshare.org/
636-947-6164
dcochran@nationalshare.org

Healing Hearts for Bereaved Parents are dedicated to providing grief support and services to parents who are suffering as the result of the death of their child or children www.healingheart.net support@healingheart.net

Parents of Murdered Children provides support and assistance to all survivors of homicide victims while working to create a world free of murder

www.pomc.com (513) 721-5683 (888) 818-7662 natlpomc@pomc.org Twinless Twins provide
a safe and compassionate
community for twinless twins to
experience healing and
understanding. We also provide
support for twins and other
multiples who have lost their
twin due to death or
estrangement at any age.
www.twinlesstwins.org

Bereaved Parents of USA is a self-help group that offers support, understanding, compassion and hope especially to the newly bereaved struggling to rebuild their lives after the death of their children, grandchildren or siblings www.bereavedparentsusa.org

Faith's Lodge – 6942 County Rd C Danbury, WI 54830 715-866-8200

Serves families who have suffered the loss of a child within the past three years. www.faithslodge.org

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Hello Grief provides information and resources about grief in order to break through the current culture of avoidance that surrounds death and loss.

www.hellogrief.org HelloGrief@comfortzonecamp. org Grief Watch was created to provide bereavement resources, memorial products and links that can help when experiencing a personal loss.

www.griefwatch.com

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) provided supportive services to drunk and drugged driving victims to help them cope with the devastating impact of substance-impaired driving crashes.

www.madd.org 24 hr victim helpline 877-MADD-HELP

Grieving Center is a web based television channel devoted to assisting those who have lost loved ones. www.grievingcenter.org

Healing the Spirit promotes healing and peace for organ and tissue donor families. Our website, however, is open and available for all who mourn the death of a loved one.

www.healingthespirit.org

Kyle's Korner is dedicated to helping grieving children, teens and their families who are coping with the death of a loved one. http://www.kyleskorner.org/

The Dougy Center provides support in a safe place where children, teens, young adults, and their families grieving a death can share their experiences.

http://www.dougy.org/ 503-775-5683 help@dougy.org

Substance Use Deaths

The Brendon Project is to create a unified voice, a visual picture to demonstrate how many loved ones have been needlessly lost to the disease of addiction. The intention of this project is to bring people together.

http://www.thebrendonproject.com/

Grief Recovery After A Substance Passing (GRASP) – provides sources of help, compassion, and understanding for families or individuals who have had a loved one die as a result of substance abuse or addiction.

http://grasphelp.org/

Broken No More provides support and guidance to those who have lost a loved one due to substance use, to advance the treatment of, and eventual cures for addiction / substance use disorder in a meaningful and useful way and to effect positive policy changes in the current failed war on drugs.

http://broken-no-more.org

Kenosha County Opioid Task Force

This group of agencies and individuals meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month to address the opioid crisis in our community. Call 262-605-6722 or e-mail kcotf@kenoshacounty.org for more information.

Loss from Suicide

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) mission is to save lives and bring hope to those affected by suicide

www.afsp.org

www.save.org

hidden or taboo topic and that through raising awareness and educating the public, we can SAVE lives.

SAVE is based on the foundation and belief that suicide should no longer be considered a

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - No matter what problems you are dealing with, we want to help you find a reason to keep living. Call anytime 24/7 and you'll be connected to a skilled, trained counselor at a crisis center. Your call is confidential and free. www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org 1-800-273-TALK(8255)

SPRC is a resource center devoted to advancing the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention. We provide technical assistance, training, and materials to increase the knowledge and expertise of suicide prevention practitioners and other professionals serving people at risk for suicide. We also promote collaboration among a variety of organizations that play a role in developing the field of suicide prevention. www.sprc.org

Center for Suicide Awareness

HOPELINE by the Center for Suicide Awareness is a text-in (versus voice call-in) free service for help and hope. HOPELINE is the emotional support text line in the state of Wisconsin. Text HOPELINE to 741741. HOPELINE's purpose is to offer emotional support and resources before situations rise to crisis level. www.centerforsuicideawareness.org

Grieving Children and Teens

Helping children through grief and loss

There are also books to help children cope with loss.

http://www.grievingchildren.net/

Margaret Ann's Program creates opportunities for children and teens grieving the death of someone close to them to engage in peer discussions, organized activities, and peer bonding. Thanks to the generosity of individual and corporate donors, this program is free to all individuals. 262-634-2391

info@FSRacine.org

http://fsracine.org/margaretann-s-program.html

Camp Erin is a free bereavement camp designed for children and teens ages 6 – 17 who have experienced the death of someone close to them. This weekendlong experience is filled with traditional, fun camp activities combined with grief education and emotional support—led by grief professionals and trained volunteers. Camp Erin provides a unique opportunity for peer bonding between children and teens facing a similar life circumstance.

http://seasonsfoundation.org/camp-erin-milwaukee/

Camp HOPE is a place in central Wisconsin where children and teenagers gather to work through the grieving process after a loved one dies. The camp gently guides the children and teenagers through the complex emotions by showing them that they are not alone.

http://camphopeforkids.org/ camphope89@gmail.com

National Alliance for Grieving Children

promotes awareness of the needs of children and teens grieving a death and provides education and resources for anyone who wants to support them.

www.childrengrieve.org

(866)432-1542

Kidsaid purpose is to give kids their own place to deal with their feelings with other kids who have suffered major losses.

www.kidsaid.com

Remembrance

Full Circle Memory Wall

Remembering is an important part of the healing process. Many times, children and adults who experience a loss are looking for tangible ways to remember and honor their loved one. The Full Circle Memory Wall is open for everyone. Create your own Memory Page for someone.

www.fullcirclegc.org/memorywall

Light the Light

Honor your loved one for any special occasion, birthday or memoriam by lighting the 1866 Kenosha (Southport) Lighthouse. The Lighthouse is lit from dusk until dawn starting at dusk on the requested date and ending at dawn the following morning. Besides the lighting of the tower, a black and white Ad will be placed in the Kenosha News on your requested date. The Ad will be in your own words for the occasion and picture if you choose. Ads will need to be placed 10 business days prior to the publication date. All reservations must be made with the Museum staff at the Kenosha History Center either in person or via phone.

http://kenoshahistorycenter.org/lightstation.html 654-5770 ext. 109 Mon, Wed Fri

The Healing Garden is a child grief web page with interactive activities to help children deal with their grief and loss through creative expression and companion interaction.

http://www.healingthespirit.org/healinggarden/Healing Garden.htm

Digital Memory Quilt

The Digital Memory Quilt is an online space where suicide loss survivors everywhere can honor and share stories about their loved ones using video, audio, photos, and words — stories that serve as squares in our virtual guilt.

When writing about your loved one, consider sharing stories about a special time you had with them; talk about their personality, their interests.

https://afsp.org/find-support/ive-lost-someone/digital-memory-quilt/

Local Support Groups

Survivors of Suicide Support Group

http://www.kenoshacounty.org/946/Community-Resources Contact Debbie at 262-605-6722

Debbie.rueber@kenoshacounty.org

Meetings are held at Piasecki Althaus Family Services Center 2002 52nd St Kenosha WI 53140 Call or e-mail for meeting schedule

The Compassionate Friends

http://www.compassionatefriends.org Contact Diane at 262-895-4888 merrittsmom@wi.rr.com

Meetings are the Last Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm at Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare (lower level) 3801 Spring St Racine WI 53405

Resolve Through Sharing

Contact Chaplain Catherine Neal at 262-656-2753 The support group meets at St. Catherine's Medical Center Campus 9555 76th St Conf Rm A on the third Tuesday of each month from 7:00pm to 8:30pm

catherine.neal@uhsi.org

Grief Share is a faith based support group for those who have lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend. There are thousands of Grief Share groups meeting weekly at locations around the world. The Grief Share program is designed so that you can join the group at any time. You will be welcomed and encouraged.

www.griefshare.org info@griefshare.org

SOLOS – Survivors of Loved Ones Suicide

Group is held the 2nd & 4th Wednesday from 6:00-7:30pm at 3801 Spring St. Racine. For more information, call NAMI Racine 262-637-0582 or 262-637-6200

Lost...but not forgotten is a support group for those who lost someone to addiction. Group is held the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at Holy Spirit Community Church 5900 11th Ave Kenosha from 6:00-7:30pm. Contact Debbie at 262-605-6722 or Pauly at 262-945-9770 Debbie.rueber@kenoshacounty.org 1luckyguytoday@gmail.com

THERAPY & COUNSELING RESOURCES

There are many options for those seeking therapy. A complete up to date list can be found at http://www.kenoshacounty.org/946/Community-Resources

Many religious or spiritual organization also offer counseling services or grief support. For more information contact your place of worship.

NAMI - National Alliance on Mental Illness

NAMI Kenosha County

P.O. Box 631, Kenosha, WI 53141

262-652-3606

http://www.namikenosha.org/

NAMI Racine County

2300 DeKoven Ave. Racine, WI 53403

(262) 637-0582

http://www.namiracinecounty.org/

info@NAMIRacine.org

CRISIS SERVICES

Crisis Intervention Available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week 262-657-7188 1-800-236-7188 HOPELINE Text HOPELINE to741741 911

LEGAL DOCUMENTS & RECORDS

Death Certificates

The death certificate is completed in two sections: the medical portion is completed by either the Kenosha County Medical Examiner's Office (KCMEO) or a physician, while the remainder is completed by the funeral home. Once the death certificate is completed, it is the responsibility of the funeral home to file the document with the WI State Office of Vital Statistics. The funeral home can then provide you with copies of the death certificate. You may also request a death certificate from the Register of Deeds office at 262-653-2444 or apply on-line at http://www.kenoshacounty.org/547/Vital-Records. There is a charge for death certificates.

Autopsy Report

If you would like to request an autopsy report contacts the medical examiner's office. There is no charge for next of kin to receive the report. Note that reports can take 3-4 months or longer to be finalized.

Kenosha County Medical Examiner's Office 8600 Sheridan Rd Kenosha WI 53143 262-653-3869

Police Report

You may be able to obtain a copy of the police report if there is an investigation of an accident or crime related to your loved one.

Crime Victim Information				
Deputy/Officer/Trooper:				
Police case number:				
Pleasant Prairie Police Department 262-694-7353	Twin Lakes Police Department	262-877-9056		
Kenosha Police Department 262-605-5212	Kenosha Sheriff's Department 2	262-653-6600		

If your loved one passed away due to the criminal actions of another you may be eligible for financial assistance from the Crime Victim Compensation fund for medical, funeral, or counseling costs.

www.doj.state.wi.us

Phone in Madison area: 608-264-9497

Toll-free: 800-446-6564 TTY: 800-947-3529

If your loved one was the victim of a crime and their case is sent to the District Attorney's Office, please contact the Victim Witness staff at the District Attorney's Office. You may be eligible for services and assistance.

www.kenoshacounty.org

262-653-2408

Medical Records

Depending on your relationship to the deceased and their medical record releases, you may be able to obtain medical records from the hospital or clinic where your loved one was treated.

Aurora Medical Center	United Hospital Kenosha	United Hospital St	
	Campus	Catherine's Campus	
262-948-5600	262-656-2011	262-577-8000	

Social Security Benefits

As next of kin of the deceased, you may be eligible for survivor benefits. You will need the following documents to apply to receive survivor benefits, but you are encouraged to begin the application process even if you cannot locate all of these documents. The Social Security Administration can assist you in obtaining them.

- Proof of death (from funeral home or death certificate)
- Your social security number as well as the deceased worker's
- Your birth certificate
- Your marriage certificate if you are a widow or widower
- Your divorce papers (if you are applying as a divorced widow or widower)
- Dependent children's birth certificate and social security numbers
- Your bank name and account number so that your benefits can be directly deposited
- Deceased workers W-2 form or self-employment tax return from the most recent year

Contact the Social Security Administration:

Online: www.ssa.gov

Phone: 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778)
Or in person at the nearest Social Security Office

5624 6th Ave Kenosha WI 53140

1-866-334-4997

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Notify agencies of your loved one's death

US Postal Service - 1-800-275-8777

If the deceased lived alone, it is recommended to forward mail to another location so it does not accumulate. The documents, statements, and subscription that come in the mail for the deceased may help you to identify organizations that have not yet been notified of your loved one's death.

Their employer (if applicable) Phone:			
Insura	nce agent Phone:	:	
Bank			
	Phone:		

American Red Cross 1-877-272-7337

http://www.redcross.org/get-help/military-families/emergency-communication

If a family member is in the U.S. Military, the Hero Care Center is available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, with two options for requesting assistance, online and by phone.

Obituaries

The funeral home of your choice will usually write and submit the obituary to the desired newspaper. If you are not working with a funeral home or choosing to do this yourself, you can contact the newspaper directly.

Kenosha News Racine Journal Times
(262) 656-6212 (262)631-1774
obits@kenoshanews.com obits@journaltimes.com

Guide to writing an obituary

http://www.legacy.com/news/advice-and-support/article/guide-to-writing-an-obituary

BIOHAZARD CLEANUP

These companies will contain, sanitize, disinfect, repair damaged property and dispose of materials resulting from accidents, trauma, crime or death so families don't have to.

materials resulting from decidents, tradina, crime of death so families don't have to.				
Action Bio-Care, Inc.	<u>Archangels</u>	Assured Decontamination		
877-ABC-NOW7	1-877-409-9111	Services (ADS)		
877-222-6697		800-924-6384		
Badger Remediation	BIMS	Bio-Crisis Cleaning Services,		
414-476-5861	866-883-2467	Inc.		
www.Badgerremediation.com		847-561-4560		
Bio-tec Emergency Services	Healing Angels	JJ's Bio-hazard Clean-Up		
888-246-9111	414-881-2787	414-731-0962		
Marathon Trauma Biohazard	P & R Crime & Trauma Scene	Paul Davis Restoration &		
888-633-4495 or	Cleaning	Remodeling		
414-766-1300	262-284-9386	414-383-3131		
<u>PuroClean</u>	Service Master Restore	Servpro of Lake Geneva		
414-516-4300	262-518-1714	262-248-7588		
	http://www.smrecover.com/about-us			
Step One Services, LLC	24 Hour Emergency Cleanup			
262-733-7554	Services, LLC			
	414-339-0296			

Grief and Bereavement

Grief is a response to loss, generally from the loss of someone who has died, focused mostly on an emotional response but it can also be cognitive, physical, behavioral, social or spiritual and philosophical.

You may feel a range of emotions such as anger, guilt, sadness, disbelief, shock, denial, emptiness, resentment, and even relief. All your feelings are normal.

Three things to remember when you are grieving.

- 1. Don't be afraid to cry.
- 2. Talk about your loved one. Say their name. Let your friends and family know that it is ok to talk about them, share stories and say their name as well.
- 3. Give yourself permission to ask for help. (professional help, support group, religious leader in your community)

Grief is a personal process & journey. There is no "right" or "wrong" way to grieve. Take the time you need. You will never get over the loss of your loved one, but you will get through it.