



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
3503 Roosevelt Road
Kenosha, WI 53142
262-652-8298

Casey Family Options
3016 – 75th Street
Kenosha, WI 53142
262-653-0667

Haase Funeral Home
620 Legion Drive
Twin Lakes, WI 53181
262-877-3013

Bruch - Hansen
Funeral Home
6019 – 7th Avenue
Kenosha, WI 53143
262-654-2136

Kenosha Funeral
Services
8226 Sheridan Road
Kenosha, WI 53143
262-652-1943

Piasecki Funeral
Home
3720 – 39th Avenue
Kenosha, WI 53144
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 service is unique to an individual but should be memorable and meaningful, honoring the individual being remembered.

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

Kenosha County Medical Examiner's Office
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

Versiti Organ and Tissue Donation

Blood Center of Wisconsin is home to the Wisconsin Donor Network, a federally designated organ procurement organization supporting the transplant community in eastern Wisconsin.

800-722-8230 or 414-937-6999

[versiti.org/ways-to-give/organ-tissue-marrow-donation](https://www.versiti.org/ways-to-give/organ-tissue-marrow-donation)

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.

866-497-7878, [atsfoundation.org](https://www.atsfoundation.org)

Burials

Kenosha County Cemeteries

Kenosha County has 32 cemeteries. Visit [graveyards.com](https://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. [greenburialcouncil.org](https://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

[va.gov](https://www.va.gov)

Kenosha County Division of Veterans Services

8600 Sheridan Rd Suite 700

Kenosha WI 53143

262-605-6690

[kenoshacounty.org/368/Veterans](https://www.kenoshacounty.org/368/Veterans)

GRIEF & BEREAVEMENT RESOURCES

Child Loss

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| <p>Infant Death Center provides bereavement support and resources to WI families and others affected by the sudden and unexpected death of an infant chawisconsin.org 414-337-4560</p> | <p>Miss Foundation is a volunteer based organization providing. [counseling, advocacy, research, and education] services to families experiencing the death of a child missfoundation.org 602-279-MISS (6477) 888-455-MISS (6477) info@missfoundation.org</p> | <p>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 nationalshare.org 800-821-6819 info@nationalshare.org</p> |
| <p>Healing Hearts for Bereaved Parents is dedicated to providing grief support and services to parents who are suffering as the result of the death of their child or children healinghearts.org</p> | <p>Parents of Murdered Children provides support and assistance to all survivors of homicide victims while working to create a world free of murder pomc.com 513-721-5683 natlpomc@pomc.org</p> | <p>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. twinlesstwins.org</p> |
| <p>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 bereavedparentsusa.org</p> | <p>Faith's Lodge – Serves families who have suffered the loss of a child within the past three years. 6942 County Road C Danbury, WI 54830 715-866-8200 faithslodge.org</p> | |

General Grief

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| <p>The Dougy Center provides support in a safe place where children, teens, young adults, and their families grieving a death can share their experiences.</p> <p>dougy.org 503-775-5683 help@dougy.org</p> | <p>Grief Watch was created to provide bereavement resources, memorial products and links that can help when experiencing a personal loss.</p> <p>griefwatch.com</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>madd.org 24-hour victim helpline 877-Ask-MADD (877-275-6233)</p> |
| <p>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.</p> <p>lifenehealth.org/healingthespirit</p> | <p>Kyle's Korner is dedicated to helping grieving children, teens and their families who are coping with the death of a loved one.</p> <p>kyleskorner.org</p> | |

Substance Use Death

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| <p>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.</p> <p>thebrendonproject.com</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>grasphelp.org</p> |
| <p>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.</p> <p>broken-no-more.org</p> | <p>Kenosha County Substance Abuse Coalition (formerly Kenosha County Opioid Task Force) This group of agencies and individuals meet the 2nd Tuesday of odd-numbered months to address the substance use issues in our community.</p> <p>kenoshacounty.org/2295/Save-Lives-Kenosha-KC-Substance-Abuse-Co Call 262-605-6607 or email saveliveskenosha@kenoshacountywi.gov for more information.</p> |

Loss from Suicide

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| <p>American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) mission is to save lives and bring hope to those affected by suicide afsp.org</p> | <p>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. suicidepreventionlifeline.org or call 988</p> |
| <p>SAVE is based on the foundation and belief that suicide should no longer be considered a hidden or taboo topic and that through raising awareness and educating the public, we can SAVE lives. save.org</p> | <p>SPRC – Suicide Prevention Resource Center 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. sprc.org</p> |
| <p>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. centerforsuicideawareness.org</p> | |

Grieving Children and Teens

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| <p>Helping children through grief and loss There are also books to help children cope with loss. grievingchildren.net</p> | <p>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. childrengrieve.org 866-432-1542</p> |
| <p>Camp Kangaroo is a free camp experience providing a supportive and therapeutic environment for children who have experienced the death of someone close to them. This camp is for children and teens ages 6-17 who have experienced the death of someone close to them in the last two years. Camp is led by grief professionals and trained volunteers. seasonsfoundation.org/camp-kangaroo – National website seasonsfoundation.org/camp-kangaroo/camp-kangaroo-wisconsin-2 – Wisconsin webpage</p> | <p>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. camphopeforkids.org</p> |

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.

fullcirclegc.org/memories

Light the Light

Honor your loved one for any special occasion, birthday or memorial 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.

kenoshahistorycenter.org/lightstation.html

654-5770 ext. 109 Mon, Wed, Fri

Local Support Groups

Survivors of Suicide Support Group

Contact Debbie at 262-880-0464

Kenoshasosl@gmail.com

Meetings are held at Holy Spirit Community Church, 5900 11th Ave., Kenosha, WI 53140 from 6-8 pm. Call or e-mail for meeting schedule.

SOS – Survivors of Suicide

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

The Compassionate Friends

compassionatefriends.org

Contact Diane at 262-895-4888

merrittsmom@wi.rr.com

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

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.

griefshare.org

info@griefshare.org – email

Hospice Alliance

Provides individual or group support as well as memorial events. The bereavement team provides this service regardless of whether the bereaved was a patient at Hospice Alliance.

hospicealliance.org/grief-support/group-support

Lost...but not forgotten is a support group for those who lost someone to addiction. For more information, contact Pauly at 262-945-9770 or email luckyguytoday@gmail.com

Therapy & Counseling Services

There are many options for those seeking therapy. A complete up to date list can be found at kenoshacounty.org/2242/behavioral-health-community-directory
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
namikenosha.org

NAMI Racine County
2300 DeKoven Ave. Racine, WI 53403
262-637-0582
namiracinecounty.org
info@NAMIRacine.org

Crisis Services

Crisis Prevention and Intervention Center
Available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week
262-657-7188 or 800-236-7188

HOPELINE
Text HOPELINE
to741741

Call **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 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
1000 55th St. (Enter off 11th Ave.) Kenosha WI 53140
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.

Kenosha Police Department 262-605-5212

Kenosha Sheriff's Department 262-653-6600

Pleasant Prairie Police Department 262-694-7353

Twin Lakes Police Department 262-877-9056

Police case number: _____

Deputy/Officer/Trooper: _____

Crime Victim Information

If your loved one died 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.

doj.state.wi.us/v

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. Phone: 262-653-2408 or email: kenoshacounty.org/148/district-attorney

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.

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| Aurora Medical Center | Froedtert South Kenosha Hospital | Froedtert South Pleasant Prairie Hospital |
| 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: ssa.gov

Phone: 800-772-1213 (TTY: 800-325-0778)

Or in person at the nearest Social Security Office

5624 6th Ave Kenosha WI 53140

866-334-4997

Death Notification

Notify agencies of your loved one's death

US Postal Service: 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 subscriptions 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: _____

Insurance agent: _____

Phone: _____

Bank _____

Phone: _____

American Red Cross: 877-272-7337

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
262-656-6227
obits@kenoshanews.com

Racine Journal Times
262-631-1774
obits@journaltimes.com

Guide to Writing an Obituary

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

| BIOHAZARD CLEANUP | | |
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| 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. | | |
| Action Bio-Care, Inc. 877-ABC-NOW7 877-222-6697 | Aftermath 800-366-9923 | Archangels 877-409-9111 |
| Assured Decontamination Services (ADS) 800-924-6384 | Badger Remediation 414-476-5861 | Bio-Crisis Cleaning Services, Inc. 847-561-4560 |
| Bio Recovery 888-471-4204 | Bio-Tec Emergency Services 888-246-9111 | Bio Wisconsin 262-879-4525 |
| Chicago Water & Fire Restoration 800-597-6911 | Clean Whatever 262-822-5307 262-752-3620 | Crime Scene Clean 866-232-4197 |
| JJ's Bio-Hazard Clean-Up 414-731-0962 | Marathon Trauma Biohazard 888-633-4495 | P & R Crime & Trauma Scene Cleaning 262-375-9623 |
| Paul Davis Restoration & Remodeling 414-383-3131 | PuroClean 414-516-4300 | Revive Restoration 608-222-9222 608-280-1171 |
| ServiceMaster Restore 800-559-9070 | SERVPRO of North Kenosha County 262-764-7231 | 24 Hour Emergency Cleanup 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.

For any corrections to the grief guide please contact Patrice Hall at 262-653-3869 or e-mail: Patrice.hall@kenoshacounty.org