



County Technical Assistance Service

Published on e-Li (<http://ctas-eli.ctas.tennessee.edu>)

August 20, 2019

County Coroner

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS electronic library known as e-Li. This online library is maintained daily by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other e-Li material.

Sincerely,

The University of Tennessee
County Technical Assistance Service
226 Capitol Blvd. Suite 400
Nashville, TN. 37219
615-532-3555 phone
615-532-3699 fax
ctas@tennessee.edu
www.ctas.tennessee.edu

Table of Contents

County Coroner.....	3
---------------------	---

County Coroner

Reference Number: CTAS-453

The county legislative body has discretionary authority to create the county coroner's office. If the office is created, the legislative body appoints a coroner for a two-year term. T.C.A. § 8-9-101. The coroner must take an oath of office and enter into a \$2,500 surety bond. T.C.A. §§ 8-9-103, 8-9-104.

The coroner may hold an inquest upon receiving an affidavit signed by two or more reliable persons stating that a death has occurred and that there is good reason to believe that the death was due to unlawful violence. T.C.A. § 38-5-101 *et seq.* Courts of general sessions also have the power to hold an inquest upon receiving the proper affidavit. T.C.A. § 38-5-103. The coroner may also serve certain process when the sheriff is an interested party, and must make reports of any traffic-related deaths as required by the Department of Safety. T.C.A. §§ 8-9-106, 55-10-112.

As noted above, the county legislative body may abolish the office of coroner and assign the duties of the coroner to the county medical examiner. T.C.A. § 8-9-101.

Source URL: <http://ctas-eli.ctas.tennessee.edu/reference/county-coroner>

