primary duty of the Coroner is mandated by statute: Government Code 27491. In a nutshell: the Coroner must investigate any deaths that are sudden and unexpected.

Types of deaths requiring Coroner investigation:
- Homicides, Suicides
- Accidental deaths
- Suspected SIDS
- Deaths where a cause is unknown
- Doctor will not attest

Different systems in CA:
- Medical Examiner (appointed)
- Hybrid
- Coroner (appointed and elected)
- Sheriff –Coroner (elected)

Who notifies the Coroner of a death?
- Police/Sheriff/Other Law Enforcement Agency
- Hospitals
- Funeral Homes
- Health Department
- Citizens

Is the Coroner notified of every death in the county?
Facts, Fiction and Myths…….
SCENE INVESTIGATIONS
- Body examination: Scene and hospital

THE BODY
- What happens before autopsy?
- Does case classification matter?

PROPERTY ISSUES
- Next of kin
- Property at scene

PATHOLOGIST ROLE
- Examination: Inspection of clothing, remains, medical records
- Issue cause in a Coroner and Sheriff/Coroner system
- Medical Examiner system: cause and manner

PERSONNEL
- Forensic Pathologist: Medical school, residency, specialize in forensic pathology (fellowship)
- Deputy Coroner/Sheriff Coroner/ Medicolegal Investigator: Mixed training
- Coroner Technician: In house training

TOXICOLOGY
- Samples
- Hollywood vs. the real story!
- Retention times
- Contractors/In house labs

TOXICOLOGY REPORTS
- Who analyzes the result?

RELEASE REMAINS
- California Health and Safety Code: 7100
- Public Administrator
- California Health and Safety Code: 7104

16 **RELEASE OF PROPERTY**
- Follows H&S 7100 with the exception of minor children added
- How is it released?

17 **WHO CAN BE PRESENT AT AUTOPSY?**

18 **WHAT ABOUT A SECOND OPINION?**
- Private doctors, contractors, etc.

19 **DEATH CERTIFICATES**
- California Electronic Death Reporting System (EDRS)
- Who completes death certificates?
- Who issues death certificates?
- Amendments?

20 **FAMILY CONTACT?**
- Deputy Coroner
- Pathologist
- Law Enforcement
- When and where?

21 **LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY CONTACT?**
- Who makes contact?
- Who updates investigating agency?
- What about the DA/public defender?

22 **CONTRACTING**
- Autopsy services
- Toxicology
- Other specialties
- Why use a contractor?

23 **SIMILAR DUTIES**
- Locating family
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**SIMILAR DUTIES**
- Locating family
- Working on missing person cases
- Reviewing medical records
- Reviewing other agency reports

**FORENSIC PATHOLOGY TODAY**
- Issues in the field
- What system is better?

**QUESTIONS?**