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**For release:** November 26, 2013

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## **Arapahoe County Coroner's Office receives national accreditation** *National Association of Medical Examiners awards certification of rigorous standards*

**CENTENNIAL, CO** – The Arapahoe County Coroner's Office has been accredited by the National Association of Medical Examiners. The accreditation certifies that the Coroner's Office has complied with rigorous national standards and procedures governing the operation of a medical examiner's office. Arapahoe County is one of four counties in the state and one of 77 offices in the nation to earn the accreditation, which is conferred for a period of five years.

"NAME accreditation of our office is a tribute to the competence and dedication of our staff and our commitment to the citizens of Arapahoe County," said Arapahoe County Coroner Michael Dobersen, M.D., PhD. "This recognition by the medicolegal community demonstrates that the services provided by our office are compliant with best practice standards set at a national level by the National Association of Medical Examiners."

The Arapahoe County Coroner's Office is responsible for investigating sudden and unexpected deaths, and in particular, those that occur under violent or suspicious circumstances. Dr. Dobersen and County forensic pathologist Dr. Kelly Lear-Kaul are both active in the NAME organization.

NAME is the national professional organization of physician medical examiners, medicolegal death investigators and death investigation system administrators who perform official medicolegal investigations of deaths of public interest in the United States. The organization works to foster the professional growth of its members and disseminate professional and technical information to continuously improve investigations.

Evaluation of medical examiner's offices for accreditation is performed by peers within NAME. Dr. Marie Hermann, chief medical examiner for the Volusia County (Florida) Medical Examiner's Office, performed the evaluation of Arapahoe County's Coroner's Office Nov. 20 and 21, and found all facilities and procedures to comply with NAME standards. In Colorado, Denver, Larimer and El Paso counties also hold NAME accreditation.

For more information on the Arapahoe County Coroner's Office, call 720-874-3625 or visit [www.arapahoegov.com](http://www.arapahoegov.com).

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