



**ARAPAHOE COUNTY**  
CORONER

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**Arapahoe County Coroner's Office**

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Kelly Lear, M.D.  
Coroner

May 27, 2026

Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners  
5334 S. Prince St.  
Littleton, Colorado 80120

Dear Chair Summey and the Board of County Commissioners,

After more than twenty years of dedicated public service and with deliberate consideration, I have decided to retire from my position as the Arapahoe County Coroner. My retirement from the Office of Coroner will be effective at 1:59 pm on July 1, 2026.

It has been my great honor and distinct privilege to serve our community as Coroner since 2014, and to have worked as Forensic Pathologist with the Office since 2004. Throughout my career, I have been fortunate to work alongside exceptional elected officials, dedicated department directors, committed county and municipal public servants, engaged private sector and non-profit partners, and respected colleagues at the regional, state and national levels. Together, these partnerships have strengthened our ability to serve the residents of Arapahoe County with professionalism and integrity.

I am deeply proud of the work carried out by the Coroner's Office and especially grateful for the dedication and compassion our staff demonstrate every day in caring for decedents and supporting their loved ones during difficult times.

As the Board of County Commissioners is responsible for filling a vacancy in a county-wide elected office, I respectfully request that the Board of County Commissioners initiate the procedures required to appoint Dr. Casey Bitting as the Interim Arapahoe County Coroner, effective 3:00 pm on July 1, 2026. Dr. Bitting has served as a Forensic Pathologist with the Coroner's Office since 2018 and is deeply connected to our community. As previously discussed, her qualifications, experience, vision, and professional judgement make her uniquely suited to successfully fulfill the remainder of my term.

Thank you for your committed efforts to make a difference through your service to our county and the broader region.

Respectfully,

Kelly C. Lear, M.D.  
Coroner/Forensic Pathologist