WAC 218-04-010 Purpose and duties. The forensic investigations council is established pursuant to chapter 398, Laws of 1995. The purpose of the forensic investigations council is to:

1. Preserve and enhance the state crime laboratory;
2. Fund the death investigation system and to make related state and local institutions more efficient;
3. Preserve and enhance the state toxicology laboratory;
4. Provide resources necessary for the performance, by qualified pathologists, of autopsies;
5. Improve the performance of death investigations and the criminal justice system through the formal training of county coroners and county medical examiners;
6. Establish and maintain a dental identification system; and
7. Provide flexibility so that any county may establish a county morgue when it serves the public interest.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 34.05.020. 96-16-062, § 218-04-010, filed 8/5/96, effective 9/5/96.]

WAC 218-04-020 Membership. The forensic investigations council consists of twelve members, selected by the governor, as follows: one county coroner; one county prosecutor; one county prosecutor who also serves as ex officio county coroner; one county medical examiner; one county sheriff; one chief of police; the chief of the state patrol; two members of a county legislative authority; and one pathologist who is currently in private practice; and two members of a city legislative authority.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 34.05.020. 96-16-062, § 218-04-020, filed 8/5/96, effective 9/5/96.]

WAC 218-04-030 Officers. There shall be a chair and vice-chair elected from the members of the council. The chair does not vote except in case of a tie vote.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 34.05.020. 96-16-062, § 218-04-030, filed 8/5/96, effective 9/5/96.]

(2009 Ed.)
RULES RELATING TO THE AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL JURISDICTIONS FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF MULTIPLE DEATHS

WAC 218-10-005 Authority. This chapter is adopted pursuant to chapter 142, Washington Laws of 1999, relating to the authority of the forensic investigations council to prescribe rules governing the disbursement of funds to local jurisdictions to assist them in the investigation of multiple deaths involving unanticipated, extraordinary, and catastrophic events, or involving multiple jurisdictions.

WAC 218-10-010 Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to set forth the procedures governing all applications for state death investigations account assistance.

WAC 218-10-015 Definitions.

(1) "Death investigation budget" shall mean the local jurisdiction's appropriation into the coroner or medical examiner budgets for the determination of cause and manner of death.

(2) "Local jurisdiction" shall mean a city, town, or county of the state of Washington.

(3) "Multiple deaths involving multiple local jurisdictions" shall mean that the deaths occurred in two or more geographically distinct local jurisdictions.

(4) "Unanticipated" shall mean an event having a disproportionate fiscal impact, relative to the local jurisdiction's death investigation budget and which cannot be reasonably foreseen in the normal budget process.

WAC 218-10-020 Eligibility standards. (1) Only the following investigations are eligible for funding assistance:

(a) Investigations of multiple deaths involving unanticipated, extraordinary, and catastrophic events; or

(b) Investigations of multiple deaths involving multiple local jurisdictions.

(2) Funding assistance shall be limited to supplementations of the death investigation budget of a local jurisdiction.

(3) Funding assistance shall not be used to supplant moneys reasonably available from other state or federal sources.

WAC 218-10-025 Application process. To qualify for consideration and eligibility for assistance from the state death investigations account, the legislative authority of the local jurisdiction shall:

(1) Submit to the forensic investigations council an application on a form approved by the council; and

(2) Provide any additional information requested by the forensic investigations council, in order to evaluate the request for assistance.

WAC 218-10-030 Effective date. (1) This rule shall take effect on December 1, 2003.

(2) Funding assistance shall be available only for death investigations that commenced after August 1, 2003.