

Colorado Wrongful Death Claims Cheat Sheet

Key information for filing a wrongful death lawsuit in Colorado.

Based on *Wrongful Death* by McCormick and Murphy

Who Can File: Year 1 • Surviving spouse has exclusive right to file. • If no spouse or spouse doesn't file, children can file.	Who Can File: After Year 1 • If no claim filed by spouse/children, parents can file. • A person designated in the deceased's will can file.
Who Can File: After Year 2 • Heirs under Colorado intestacy law can pursue the claim.	Purpose of Filing Order • Prioritizes those closest to the deceased. • Ensures someone can seek justice for the family.
Statute of Limitations • Claims generally must be filed within two years. • Specific filing order dictates who can file and when.	Key Considerations • Understand the strict order of who can file. • Be aware of the time limits for filing. • Consult an attorney to navigate the process.

Resources & Further Reading

Related guides to pair with this cheat sheet:

■ Colorado Wrongful Death Claim Checklist

<https://storage.googleapis.com/mccormick-and-murphy-checklists-20260706-65ee7b/mccormick-and-murphy/Checklist/colorado-wrongful-death-claim-checklist.pdf>

■ Colorado Springs Wrongful Death Action Sheet

<https://storage.googleapis.com/mccormick-and-murphy-checklists-20260706-14eb7c/mccormick-and-murphy/Action%20Sheet/wrongful-death-action-sheet.pdf>

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Understand Colorado's specific rules for wrongful death claims.