

Wrongful Death Claims in Colorado

Understanding the order of who can file a claim.

Based on Wrongful Death by McCormick and Murphy

Factor	First Year	After One Year	After Two Years
Primary filer	Surviving Spouse	Parents or Designated Person	Heirs under intestacy law
If no spouse or spouse does not file	Children	Parents or Designated Person	Heirs under intestacy law
Who can file if no claim filed in first year	Not applicable	Parents or Designated Person	Heirs under intestacy law
Who can file after two years	Not applicable	Not applicable	Heirs under intestacy law
Law's intent	Prioritize closest to deceased	Prioritize closest to deceased	Ensure someone can seek justice

Resources & Further Reading

Related guides to support your comparison:

■ 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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Colorado law establishes a clear hierarchy for filing wrongful death claims.