

Navigating a Wrongful Death Claim in Colorado Springs

A roadmap for understanding the timeline and eligibility for filing a wrongful death claim.

Based on Wrongful Death by McCormick and Murphy

First Year After Death: Spouse's Exclusive Filing Period

- Surviving spouse has the sole right to file a wrongful death claim.
- If no spouse, or spouse does not file, children can file.



After First Year (if no claim filed): Parent or Designated Heir Filing

- Parents of the deceased may file a claim.
- A person designated in the deceased's will can file a claim.



After Second Year: Broader Heir Eligibility

- Heirs under Colorado intestacy law can pursue the claim.
- This phase opens eligibility to a wider range of family members if prior deadlines are missed.



Ongoing: Seeking Justice

- Ensure someone pursues justice on behalf of the family.
- Understand the prioritization of those closest to the deceased.

Resources & Further Reading

Related guides for this timeline:

■ 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 prioritizes those closest to the deceased in wrongful death claims.