

Colorado Wrongful Death Claims Cheat Sheet

Understanding Filing Order and Deadlines

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. • Person designated in the deceased's will can file.
Who Can File: After Year 2 • Heirs under Colorado intestacy law can file. • This applies if no claim has been filed by earlier parties.	Purpose of the Order • Prioritizes those closest to the deceased. • Ensures justice can be sought for the family.
Key Deadlines • First year: Spouse or Children. • After one year: Parents or Will Designee. • After two years: Intestacy Heirs.	Filing Considerations • Strict order of priority exists. • Missing deadlines can forfeit the right to file. • Consult an attorney for complex situations.

Resources & Further Reading

Related guides to pair with this cheat sheet:

■ Wrongful Death Claim Filing Rights in Colorado (Comparison)

<https://storage.googleapis.com/mccormick-and-murphy-checklists-20260710-3eaad2/mccormick-and-murphy/Comparison/denver-wrongful-death-lawyer-comparison.pdf>

■ Wrongful Death Claim Checklist

<https://storage.googleapis.com/mccormick-and-murphy-checklists-20260710-3eaad2/mccormick-and-murphy/Checklist/wrongful-death-claim-checklist.pdf>

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Know the filing order and deadlines to seek justice for wrongful death.