Wrongful Death Claim Filing Rights in Colorado

Understanding who can file a wrongful death claim and when.

Based on Denver Wrongful Death Lawyer by McCormick and Murphy

Factor	Surviving Spouse	Children	Parents/Others
Exclusive Filing Right (First Year)	Yes	No	No
Right to File (After First Year, if no suit filed)	Yes (as designated beneficiary/personal representative)	Yes (as designated beneficiary/personal representative)	Yes (as designated beneficiary/personal representative)
Who Can File	Surviving Spouse	Children (if no spouse)	Parents (if no spouse or children)
Purpose of Standing Rules	Ensure those most impacted control the case	Ensure those most impacted control the case	Ensure those most impacted control the case
Designated Beneficiary/Personal Representative Filing	Yes (after one year, if no suit filed)	Yes (after one year, if no suit filed)	Yes (after one year, if no suit filed)

Resources & Further Reading

Related guides to support your comparison:

- Navigating a Wrongful Death Claim in Colorado (Process Flow)

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- Navigating a Wrongful Death Claim in Colorado (Timeline)

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Colorado law prioritizes immediate family in wrongful death claims.