

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 in will	Heirs under Colorado intestacy law
If no spouse or spouse does not file	Children may file	Parents or designated person in will	Heirs under Colorado intestacy law
Who can file after the first year?	Not applicable	Parents or designated person in will	Heirs under Colorado intestacy law
Who can file after two years?	Not applicable	Not applicable	Heirs under Colorado intestacy law
Purpose of the order	Prioritize those closest to the deceased	Ensure justice for the family	Ensure justice for the family

Resources & Further Reading

Related guides to support your comparison:

■ Wrongful Death Claim Checklist

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

■ Understanding Wrongful Death Claims in Colorado (Workbook)

<https://storage.googleapis.com/mccormick-and-murphy-checklists-20260706-ca0765/mccormick-and-murphy/Workbook/denver-wrongful-death-lawyer-workbook.pdf>

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Colorado law prioritizes close relatives in wrongful death claims.