

1

THE OII FAMILY LIAISON PROGRAM

Losing someone suddenly and violently can be a traumatic experience for families, friends, and communities.

When that death may be the result of deadly force by a law enforcement officer, the Washington State Office of Independent Investigations (OII) is the agency that **INVESTIGATES**.

OII was created to conduct **UNBIASED AND TRANSPARENT** investigations of use of deadly force cases. We have our own teams of trained and experienced investigators. No local law enforcement officers are involved in OII investigations.

To make sure the family of someone who dies during an encounter with police are always kept **INFORMED**, OII developed the OII Family Liaison Program.

2

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM OII

When OII investigates a case, one of our six regional supervisors will lead the investigation. All OII regional supervisors have experience investigating use of deadly force cases.

OII will assign a Family Liaison as your main point of contact to keep you informed about the investigation and take any questions you have.

An OII Tribal Liaison may also be assigned to ensure that culturally appropriate support and tribal-centered services are provided when requested.

You may hear about an OII Community Liaison, who will contact local community groups to answer their questions and be a point of contact for them.

When the investigation is finished, OII will write a detailed report of its findings and provide this to you with any other related materials you want, such as photographs or videos.

The final case report will go to a county prosecutor's office. It is the prosecutor who decides whether to file any criminal charges in the case.

OII does not make or recommend any charging decisions.

3

FAMILY LIAISON SERVICES

OII has six regions of operation with a designated Family Liaison for each. They are your main point of contact to reach OII.

Their role is to:

- Keep you informed of the investigation.
- Share your questions and concerns with the OII investigators.
- Inform you before OII issues news releases or holds a press conference.
- Help you work with other government agencies, such as the coroner or medical examiner's office, when requested.
- Join you at meetings with investigators or legal proceedings.
- Make sure the final OII case report is provided to you and your questions are answered.
- Share general information about coping with grief and trauma.
- Help find any community resources available to you.

4

SEEKING HELP

Please advise your assigned OII Family Liaison if you have any specific needs. They may have information about local community resources available to you.

Here are some general resources that may help:

CRISIS LINES

National Suicide Prevention & Crisis Lifeline.

People do not need to be suicidal to call. This free confidential mental health hotline connects those needing support to counselors.

CALL OR TEXT 988

- Press 1 for veterans or text 838255
 - Press 2 for Spanish or text AYUDA to 988.
 - For other languages, ask for an interpreter in the language needed.
 - Press 3 for LGBTQI+ Youth and Young Adult
 - Press 4 for the Native and Strong Lifeline
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing visit 988lifeline.org

EMOTIONAL OR MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Teen Link - for teens who need help

CALL OR TEXT 1-866-833-6546

The Washington Warm Line for peer support

CALL 877-500-WARM (9276)

24-hour Crisis Connections

CALL 1-866-427-4747

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

CALL 211 OR VISIT wa211.org

5

HOW TO REACH US

OII's mission is to conduct fair, thorough, transparent, and competent investigations.

The mission of the OII Family Liaison Program is to assist the loved ones of those that have died or are seriously hurt during incidents that OII is investigating.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to an OII Family Liaison.

That is why we are here.

FamilyLiaison@oii.wa.gov

Assigned Family Liaison:

Contact information:



INFORMATION FOR IMPACTED FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

oii.wa.gov

