

# Media Release

Snohomish County  
Medical Examiner's Office  
9509 29th Ave W, Everett, WA 98204  
425-438-6200

January 6, 2020

The Snohomish County Medical Examiner's Office has completed the examination and confirmed the identification of the 54-year-old male who was found in a wooded area near the 1900 block of 40<sup>th</sup> Street in Everett, Washington on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. The decedent is **Kenneth S. Schale** of Everett, Washington. The cause and manner of death are pending further investigation.

For further information, please contact the Everett Police Department.

The Snohomish County Medical Examiner's Office has completed the examination and confirmed the identification of the 63-year-old male who was involved in a multiple motor vehicle collision near the Sultan Park and Ride near westbound State Route 2 Milepost 23 in Sultan, Washington on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The decedent is **Thomas G. Barnes** of Bothell, Washington. The cause and manner of death are due to natural causes.

For further information, please contact the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office.

## Cause of Death

*Cause of Death* is a term used to indicate the medical cause of death, listing the disease(s) or injuries that caused death. Specific cause of death information is recorded on the death certificate and is entered into the Vital Statistics System of the State of Washington.

## Manner of Death

Manner of Death is the way to categorize death as required by the Washington State Department of Health. The classifications are Natural, Accident, Suicide, Homicide, Undetermined, and Pending. Only medical examiners and coroners may certify non-natural deaths.

**Natural** is defined for Medical Examiner death certification purposes as a death due solely to an illness or medical issue not influenced by external factors.

**Accident** is defined for Medical Examiner death certification purposes as an unnatural death resulting from an inadvertent chance happening.

**Suicide** is defined for Medical Examiner death certification purposes as a death from self-inflicted injury with evidence of intent to die.

**Homicide** is defined as the action of one person directly causing the death of another. All murders are homicides, not all homicides are murder. An example may be an unintentional firearms-related hunting death.

**Undetermined** is for cases that have very little available information about the circumstances surrounding death (e.g., partial skeletal remains) or where known information equally supports, or conflicts with, more than one manner of death.

**Pending** is a temporary designation for cause and/or manner when additional investigation, information and/or test results are required for certification. Pending is generally amended as soon as additional information becomes available.

\*A full explanation of Cause and Manner can be found in our [Annual Report](#).