

1           **7-4-2901. Appointment of deputy coroners.** (1) The coroner, with  
2 approval of the county commissioners, may appoint one or more deputy coroners to  
3 assist the coroner or act in the coroner's absence.

4           (2) At the time of appointment, a deputy coroner or acting coroner must meet  
5 the qualifications required of a coroner as provided in 7-4-2904(1) and (2)(a).

6 Within a reasonable time after appointment, a deputy shall successfully complete  
7 the basic coroner course, as provided for in 7-4-2905(2)(a). ~~The~~ After the  
8 successful completion of the basic coroner course, the deputy shall ~~must~~ also meet the  
9 requirements for advanced education as provided in 7-4-2905(2)(b).

10           (3) A deputy coroner may be the coroner or qualified deputy coroner from  
11 another county.

12           **7-4-2904. Qualifications for office of county coroner.** (1) In addition to  
13 the qualifications set forth in 7-4-2201, to be eligible for the office of coroner, at the  
14 time of election or appointment to office a person must be a high school graduate or  
15 holder of an equivalency of completion of secondary education as provided by the  
16 superintendent of public instruction under 20-7-131 or of an equivalency issued by  
17 another state ~~or jurisdiction.~~

18           (2) Each coroner, before entering the duties of office, shall:

19           (a) take and file with the county clerk the constitutional oath of office; and

20           (b) certify to the county clerk that:

21           (i) the individual has ~~satisfactorily~~ successfully completed the basic coroner  
22 course of study provided in 7-4-2905 or that the individual has completed the  
23 equivalent educational requirements as approved by the attorney general Montana  
24 public safety officer standards and training council established in 2-15-2029; or

25           (ii) the individual intends to take the basic coroner course at the next offering  
26 of the course if the coroner has been appointed or was elected by other than a local  
27 government general election and, from the date of appointment or election and

1 assumption of the duties as coroner, a basic coroner course was not offered. A  
2 coroner forfeits office for failure to take and satisfactorily complete the next offering  
3 of the basic coroner course.

4 **7-4-2905. Coroner education and continuing education.** (1) Coroner  
5 education must be ~~conducted~~ approved by the Montana public safety officer  
6 standards and training council established in 2-15-2029. The council may adopt  
7 rules establishing standards and procedures for basic and advanced education. The  
8 cost of conducting the education must be borne by the department of justice from  
9 money appropriated for the education. The county shall pay the salary, mileage, and  
10 per diem of each coroner-elect, coroner, and deputy coroner attending from that  
11 county.

12 (2) (a) The council shall ~~conduct~~ approve a 40-hour basic coroner course of  
13 study after each general election. The course, or an equivalent course approved by  
14 the council, must be completed before the first Monday in January following the  
15 election. The council may ~~conduct~~ approve other basic coroner courses at  
16 times it considers appropriate.

17 (b) The council shall ~~annually conduct~~ approve a 16-hour ~~advanced~~  
18 continuing coroner education course. Unless there are exigent circumstances,  
19 failure of any coroner or deputy coroner to satisfactorily complete the ~~advanced~~ 16-  
20 hour continuing coroner education course, or an equivalent course approved by the  
21 council, at least once every 2 years results in forfeiture of office. The council may  
22 adopt rules providing a procedure to extend the 2-year period because of exigent  
23 circumstances.

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