


OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

HIGHLAND COUNTY, OHIO

—————  —————  
ANNEKA P. COLLINS, PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Molly Bolek  
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

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Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

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Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

February 14, 2025

Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost  
Opinions Section

To Whom it May Concern;

The following questions have arisen in relation to the appointment of a dentist as an investigator or deputy coroner under the Ohio Revised Code. The Highland County Coroner has appointed a dentist as an “investigator” to assist in official duties. We seek clarification on the legality of this appointment under Ohio law. Additionally, we request clarification on whether a dentist may be appointed as a deputy coroner and whether a dentist is considered a “physician” as defined by the Ohio Revised Code.

The questions are as follows:

- 1) May a county coroner appoint a dentist as an “investigator” under the Ohio Revised Code, specifically within the authority granted under ORC § 313.05?
- 2) If a dentist cannot be appointed as an “investigator,” may a dentist be appointed as a deputy coroner under ORC § 313.05?
- 3) Does a dentist qualify as a “physician” as defined in ORC § 4731.053, ORC § 4731.34, and ORC Chapter 4715?

Thank you in advance for your interpretation of the above laws.

Sincerely,

Anneka P. Collins  
Highland County Prosecuting Attorney

cc: Sheriff Randy Sanders  
Highland County Commissioners

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