

Note from the Attorney General's Office:

1977 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 77-102 was overruled by
2001 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 2001-010.

OPINION NO. 77-102**Syllabus:**

R.C. 313.12 requires a county coroner to deliver a firearm included in the personal effects of a person who has met death by suicide to the applicable law enforcement officer named in said statute.

To: Stephan M. Gabalac, Summit County Pros. Atty., Akron, Ohio
By: William J. Brown, Attorney General, December 22, 1977

I have before me your request for my opinion in which you ask the following question:

When an individual has committed suicide by means of a firearm and the coroner has thereupon taken possession of such firearm, must the coroner deliver such weapon to the duly appointed administratrix of such suicide's estate, or may the coroner deliver the weapon to the chief of police of the municipal corporation in which the deceased was found?

R.C. 313.141, which establishes the duty of a county coroner regarding the disposition of firearms included in the personal effects of a deceased person, states in pertinent part as follows:

If firearms are included in the valuable personal effects of a person who has met death in the manner described by section 313.12 of the Revised Code, the coroner shall deliver the firearms to the chief of police of the municipal corporation within which the body is found, or to the sheriff of the county if the body is not found within a municipal corporation. The firearms shall be used for law enforcement purposes or they shall be destroyed. (Emphasis added.)

Suicide is a manner of death described in R.C. 313.12. Therefore, it is my opinion, and you are so advised that R.C. 313.141 requires a county coroner to deliver a firearm included in the personal effects of a person who has met death by suicide to the applicable law enforcement officer named in said statute.