



COUNTY OF COLLIN
STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
FY 2010 REPORT

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OUR MISSION

To uphold Article 49.25 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

This includes establishment of a competent cause and manner of death for all reported cases to the office. The Medical Examiner is also tasked with the issuance of cremation permits, facilitating tissue procurement, assistance with such donations, as well as meeting the needs of families, law enforcement, the District Attorney, Homeland Security, the medical and legal communities, as well as funeral directors.

HISTORY

The Collin County Medical examiner's Office was created in 1986 and opened on January 1, 1987. Under the requests and orders of the Commissioners Court, William B. Rohr M.D. was appointed as the Medical Examiner who retains this position to this day. In FY 2009, the addition of Sheila Spotswood M.D. came into effect and has greatly reduced the impact of an ever increasing caseload. The office operated on an annual budget of \$1,091,234 in FY 2010, and continues to offer exam and investigative services to Fannin and Grayson Counties along the northern borders of Collin County. This action adopted in January of 2009 has cancelled the previous distinction of the Collin County Medical Examiner's Office being the only M.E. operation in the State of Texas which served *only* its county population. As the current trend of northeast expansion of the Dallas-Ft. Worth metro area continues, the city limits of towns in these counties have spread south into Collin County with no foreseeable decline in the future. The re-opening of duties outside of Collin County has increased the caseload handled by this office in terms of pathology; toxicology, investigation, evidence / property (storage & disposal), transportation of bodies, and courtroom testimony.

Information presented in this annual report has been compiled on the deaths reported to the Collin County Medical Examiners Office during FY 2010.

COLLIN COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS - 2010

Here's a demographic snapshot of the northern most county in the Dallas metroplex:

- County Seat: McKinney
- Area: 848 sq. miles of land; 38 sq. miles of water
- Towns and Cities: 27
- Estimated Population (2009): 791,631
- 50/50 population split of males to females
- Median age: 33.7 years
- Under 18 years old: 1 in 4 residents
- Over 65 years of age: 6%
- Number of households: 246,000
- Average number per household: 2.8
- Number of families: 72% of households
- Traditional married couple families: 80% of family households
- Number of adults living alone: 57,000
- Average Wage per Job (2004): \$42,736
- Median Household Income: (2004) \$75,709
- New residents moving in each day (2009): 74
- Density: 580 people/sq. mile
- Paved County Roads: 726 miles
- Average Taxable Home Value: \$233,000
- County Tax Rate (2009): \$0.24 per \$100 assessed value
- Independent School Districts: 21
- Special Districts: 2
- Hospital Districts: None
- County-level Elected Officials: 35
- Registered Voters (2010): 424,548
- Voter Turnout (November 2010): 37.1%

The numbers make Collin County:

- The fastest growing county in Texas, and one of the fastest growing in the U.S.
- The 6th most populous county in Texas
- Among counties with more than a half-million people, the highest sustained growth rate since the last Census in 2000, at 61 percent
- The wealthiest county in Texas

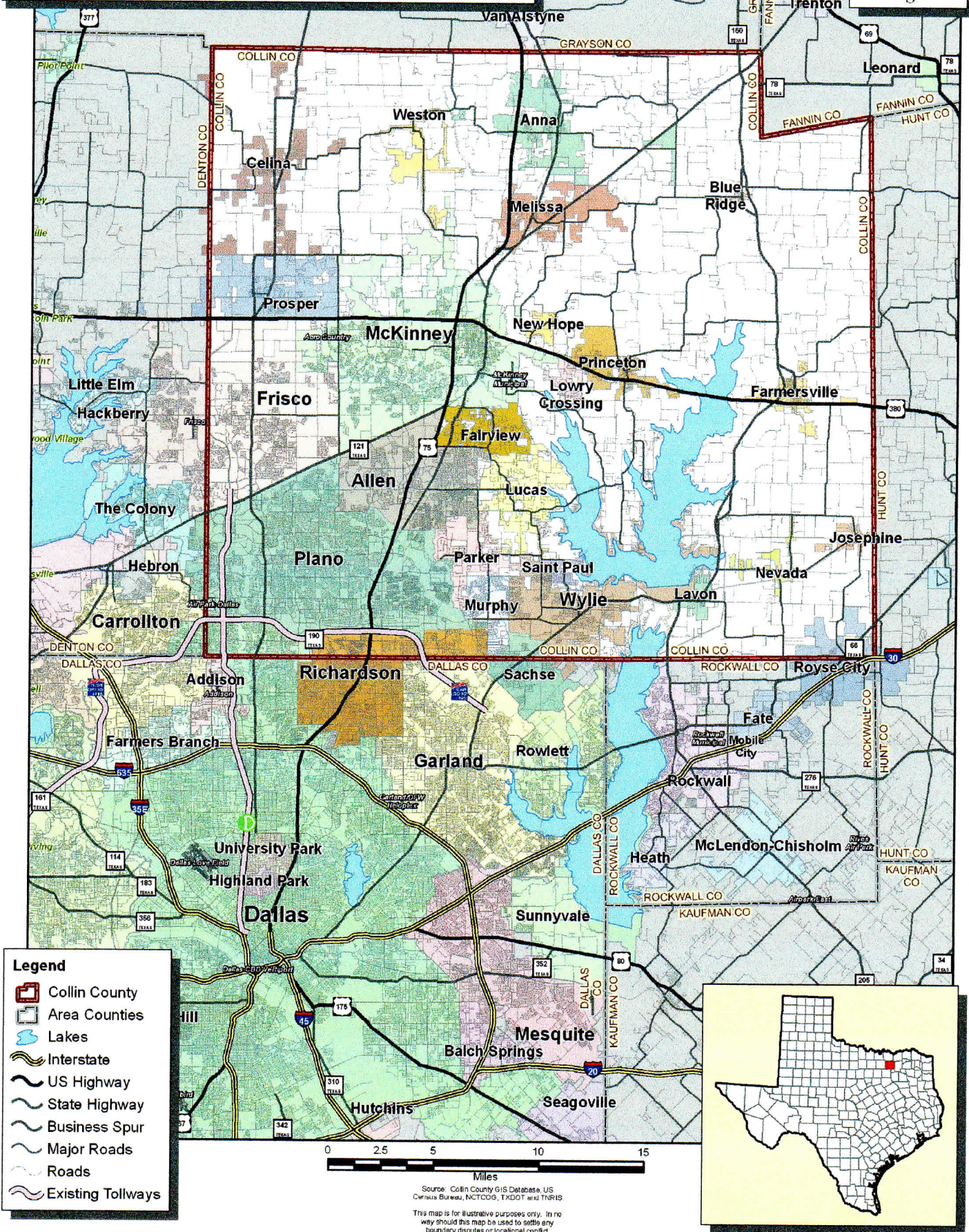
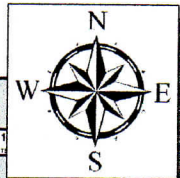
Collin County has experienced major changes since 2000:

- The population has grown by more than 61 percent
- The number of households has grown by 35 percent
- Asian and African American populations have more than doubled
- The Latino population has increased by 85 percent
- The Caucasian population has grown by 35 percent

Householders aged 65 and older have increased by almost 65 percent



Collin County, Texas and Surrounding Area



Legend

- Collin County
- Area Counties
- Lakes
- Interstate
- US Highway
- State Highway
- Business Spur
- Major Roads
- Roads
- Existing Tollways

Source: Collin County GIS Database, US Census Bureau, NCTCOG, TXDOT and TNRIS

This map is for illustrative purposes only. In no way should this map be used to settle any boundary disputes or locational conflict.

November 2008

MANNERS OF DEATH : (Jurisdiction Assumed)

Homicide: 12

Suicide: 82

Accident: 217

Natural: 2271

Undetermined: 31

The above listed information was collected on cases investigated between Oct. 09 and Sept. 10 by the Collin County Medical Examiners Office.

FY 2010	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
Deaths Investigated	251	208	238	236	199	206	209	221	203	198	221	223	2613
Scene Visits	16	14	12	19	13	12	10	21	18	9	15	10	169
Bodies transported by office or by order of office	43	41	41	42	34	39	33	44	35	30	37	38	457
Cases Accepted	43	41	41	42	34	39	33	44	35	30	37	38	457
Organ & Tissue Donations	3	1	7	2	1	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	19
Toxicology Cases	35	41	31	37	32	38	27	27	46	26	35	30	405
Unclaimed Bodies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unidentified Bodies after Examination	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No Cases (reported but not transported to CCME)	188	158	189	184	155	156	184	177	159	163	175	173	2061
Death Certificates	63	50	49	52	44	50	25	47	45	35	46	50	556
Partial Autopsies	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
External Exams	13	10	19	14	17	23	11	12	17	12	10	23	181
Autopsy Exams	30	31	21	28	17	15	22	31	18	18	27	15	273
Total Exams	43	41	41	42	34	39	33	43	35	30	37	38	456
Notarized Records	6	8	14	12	20	17	22	21	14	23	13	19	189
Cremation Permits	131	85	125	123	89	109	113	78	116	97	126	91	1283
Volatiles Determination	2	3	7	0	0	1	3	4	0	2	3	1	26
Evidence Cases Inventoried & Stored	14	22	22	24	20	14	21	24	22	10	14	20	227
Est Overtime	21	39.3	0	29.5	0	38.5	13.8	35.5	0	33.3	0	0	211

ADULT FATALITY REVIEW TEAM

The Adult Fatality Review Team meets on the last Friday of every month at the Collin County Medical Examiners Office. The team members are:

Dr. William Rohr – Chief Medical Examiner (Collin County)

Dr. Sheila Spotswood - Deputy Medical Examiner (Collin County)

Sabina Stern – Collin County Substance Abuse

Dr. Peggy Wittie – Collin County Epidemiology

Sue Schultz – Mental Health Professional

The purpose of the Collin County Adult Fatality Review Team is to review all deaths of adults in Collin County from a public health perspective and to enhance the skills of those investigating death in Collin County, especially the Medical Examiner, Epidemiology, Substance Abuse, and Mental Health.

The interaction that takes place among these agencies during the Review Team meetings gives insight to everyone involved and helps them to understand why these deaths take place with a focus on prevention.

CHILD FATALITY REVIEW TEAM

The Child Fatality Review Team meets the first Friday of every month at the Plano Fire Department. The members of the team are:

Dr. William Rohr - Chief Medical Examiner

Dr. Sheila Spotswood - Deputy Medical Examiner

Dr. Peggy Wittie - Collin County Epidemiology

Mark Sanderson - Collin County Sheriff's Office Child Abuse Task Force

Ken Klein R.N. - City of Plano Fire/ Emergency Medical Services

Sue Schultz, LPC, LMFT - Mental Health Professional

Susan Ethridge - Children's Advocacy Center

Janetta Michaels - Children's Advocacy Center

Amy Atnip R.N. - Medical Center of Plano

Michelle Hesks R.N. - Medical Center of McKinney

Jeff Rich - Plano Police Department

P.D. Jackson - Allen Police Department

Howard Curtis - Collin County District Attorney's Office

Sabina Stern - Collin County Substance Abuse

Lisa Mothershed - Child Protective Services

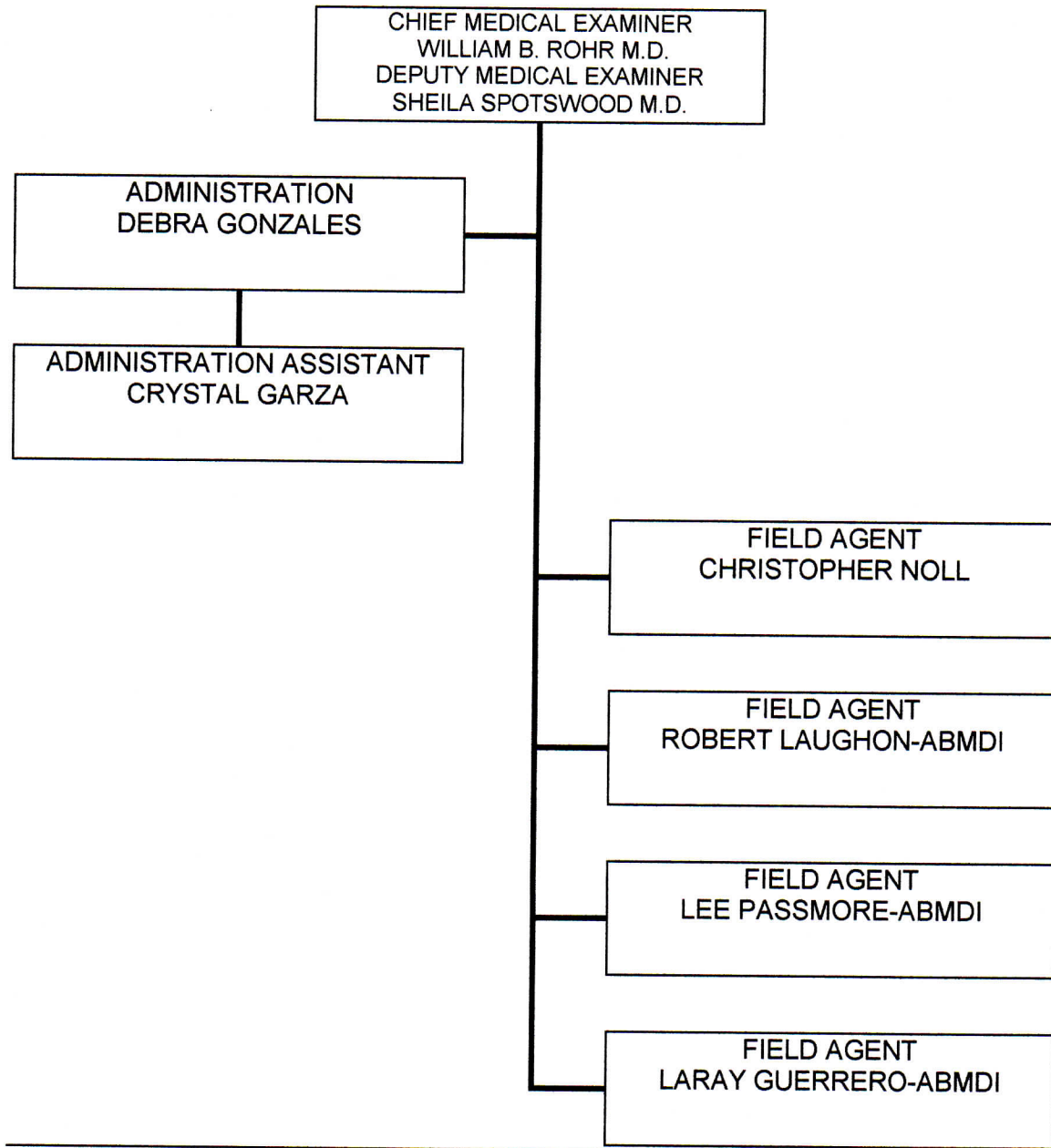
Valerie Lucke - Child Protective Services

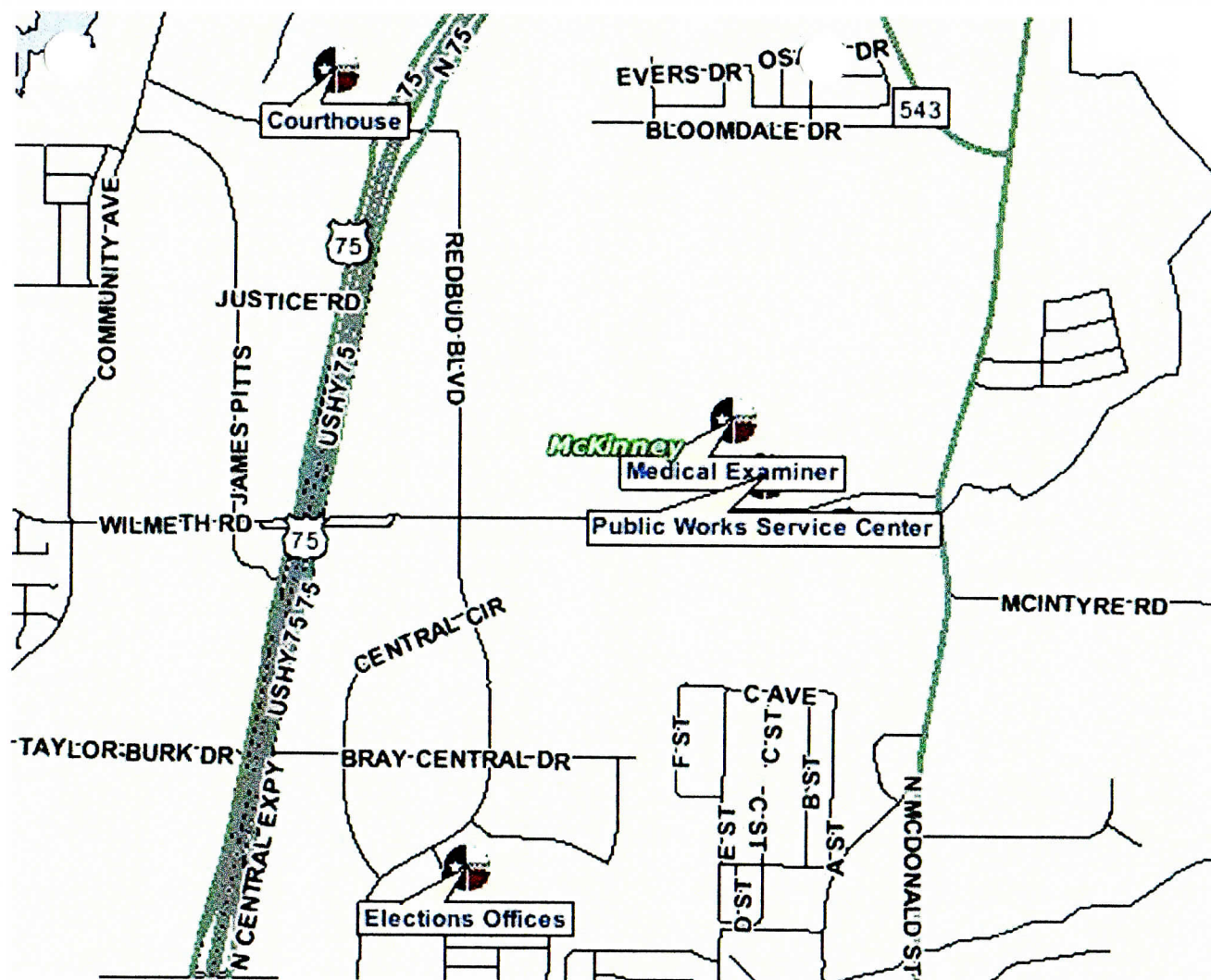
Dr. Robert Rankins - Medical Doctor

The purpose of the Collin County Child Fatality Review Team is to review all deaths of children in Collin County from a public health perspective and to enhance the skills of those investigating death in Collin County, especially the Medical Examiner, law enforcement and Child Protective Services.

The interaction that takes place among these agencies during the Review Team meetings gives insight to everyone involved and helps them to understand why these deaths take place with a focus on prevention.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





**DIRECTIONS TO COLLIN COUNTY MEDICAL
EXAMINERS OFFICE:**

**TAKE US-75 TO MCKINNEY EXIT 42-A @ WILMETH
ROAD**

**HEAD EASTBOUND UNTIL THE 4 LANES BECOME
ONLY 2**

**TURN NORTH AT THE CCMEO SIGN AND
PROCEED TO PUBLIC PARKING. HOURS 8-5 M-F**