



**Office of the District Attorney
Fifth Judicial District**

Serving Clear Creek, Eagle, Lake, and Summit Counties

Bruce I. Brown, District Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sept. 9, 2019

Contact: PIO, John Bryan
jbryan@da5.us
C: 478-954-1909

**Lake County Coroner Indicted by Grand Jury on Official
Misconduct Charge**

LAKE COUNTY, COLO. – On Friday, September 6, 2019, elected Lake County Coroner Shannon Kent was indicted by a Fifth Judicial District Grand jury for the petty criminal offense of Second Degree Official Misconduct.

The charge stems from sending the coroner's wife, to respond to numerous deaths scenes during 2019 when she was not a sworn deputy. Deputy coroners exercise the authority of the elected coroner. Coroner duties require investigating cause of death and taking the bodies of decedents who pass outside of hospitals when physicians are not in attendance.

A grand jury frequently investigates matters of public corruption and violation of duties by elected officials. Coroner Kent was first appointed to the office of Coroner in 2012. He was elected coroner to four-year terms in 2014 and 2018.

Chief Judge Mark Thompson of the Fifth Judicial District received the Indictment and a court date in Lake County is pending assignment by the Lake County Court Clerk. A summons for the Coroner's voluntary attendance to answer to the charges will issue, in lieu of any arrest warrant.

-DA5-

ALL PERSONS CHARGED WITH CRIMES ARE PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL THE CONTRARY IS
PROVEN IN A COURT OF LAW.