



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

*Serving Clear Creek, Eagle, Lake, and Summit Counties*  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### Former Lake County Coroner Found Guilty of Misconduct

**Leadville, Colo.** – Shannon Kent, 45, of Leadville, was found guilty Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> by a jury of 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Official Misconduct (Class 1 Petty Offense)---and was sentenced to six months unsupervised probation. He was acquitted of a second charge of perjury (Class 4 Felony).

The charges stem from Kent sending his wife, Staci, to several death scenes in 2019, although she was not a deputy coroner at the time. Kent sent her to act in that official capacity from March 2019 to July 15, 2019, although she was never legally sworn in nor was an appointment filed with the County Clerk. After a Grand Jury indicted him in September 2019, Kent testified that his wife had acted as the Deputy Coroner for approximately two years prior to July 16, 2019—the date he filed the valid appointment with the County Clerk’s office.

As this case closes, Kent’s next Lake County court date is Sept. 23, 2021, at 9:15am. He faces several charges including: Abuse of a Corpse (Class 6 Felony), Official Misconduct (Class 2 Misdemeanor), and other unlawful acts regarding mortuary services and providing false health/medical information and certificates. The Kents were arrested in Leadville Feb. 18, 2021, by the Silverthorne Police Dept. with the assistance of the Lake County Sheriff’s Office. Law enforcement found a deceased person in a coffin at the former Kent-Bailey Funeral Home in Silverthorne, believed to have been there for several months, decaying. They both face a jury trial in Summit Nov. 15-19, 2021.

Several funeral homes owned by the Kents were shut down in 2020 due to charges of: having an unrefrigerated body, found bags of unlabeled cremains, and an abandoned still born infant.

Staci’s next Lake County court dates are: Sept. 23 at 11am—a Setting; and, Sept. 27 at 2:30pm—a Motions Hearing. She faces charges of: Corpse Abuse (Class 2 Misdemeanor), Cremation-Unlawful Acts (Unclass Misdemeanor), 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Perjury (Class 4 Felony), and Forgery of a Public Record Filed w/a Public Official (Class 5 Felony).

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