

Dr. Christopher Tape, Forensic Pathologist and Coroner

Dr. Christopher Tape was raised in Los Alamos, New Mexico, a town nestled among stunning mountains and canyons. Growing up, he developed a love for outdoor adventure, excelling in ice hockey, snow skiing, and whitewater rafting through his involvement with Explorer Post 20.

Dr. Tape's educational journey began at the University of Colorado, where he pursued physics before discovering his true passion for medicine and switching to biology. During summers, he worked as a wildland firefighter and professional whitewater raft guide on the Arkansas River, experiences that honed his discipline and resilience.

After earning his undergraduate degree, Dr. Tape gained invaluable experience as a biochemist at Los Alamos National Laboratory and later as a nursing assistant in dementia wards in Wisconsin and New Mexico. He also served as a volunteer firefighter with the Agua Fria Fire Department and earned his EMT-Intermediate certification, further solidifying his commitment to serving others.

Dr. Tape earned his medical degree from the University of New Mexico, where he discovered his calling in forensic pathology during his first observation of a forensic autopsy. He completed a residency in anatomic and clinical pathology at the University of Vermont, where he undertook multiple forensic pathology rotations, including a notable stint at the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner.

His specialized training culminated in a forensic pathology fellowship at Wake Forest University in North Carolina, with supplemental education at the Virginia Forensic Academy.

In 2010, Dr. Tape began his career as a forensic pathologist at the Louisiana Forensic Center, LLC. Over his tenure, he has performed over 4,000 autopsies and testified as an expert witness in more than 100 cases, including cold cases and high-profile investigations. As owner of the Louisiana Forensic Center from 2019 to 2022, he successfully led the organization through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2023, Dr. Tape joined the St. Tammany Parish Coroner's Office, bringing a wealth of expertise in forensic pathology and business management. His vision for the office is built on the principles of **Clarity, Compassion, and Closure**:

- **Clarity** in providing accurate and transparent findings to help families and communities understand the circumstances of loss.
- **Compassion** in delivering services with empathy and care for grieving families, recognizing the profound emotional toll of their experiences.
- **Closure** in ensuring timely and thorough investigations that help bring resolution to families and the community.

Dr. Tape is deeply passionate about suicide prevention, a mission close to his heart after the loss of an uncle to suicide and witnessing its profound effects on his family. He is dedicated to using his platform as coroner to advocate for mental health awareness and prevention initiatives.

Outside of his professional life, Dr. Tape treasures time with his family, including his children and beloved pets. His choice to serve St. Tammany Parish reflects his dedication to advancing the field of forensic pathology while making a meaningful impact in the community he now proudly calls home.