

# WHAT SHOULD BE DONE IF HUMAN REMAINS ARE ENCOUNTERED?

If you find human remains or bones that you think might be human:

- Stop all activity within 50 feet of discovery.
- Do not disturb or remove the bones, even if you are on private property.
- Secure the area.

**In providing this information, this brochure addresses the legal, moral, ethical, and sometimes practical challenges that are faced when a human burial is located.**



Police officer investigating discovered burial

## WHO DO I CONTACT IF I FIND HUMAN REMAINS?

The local law enforcement agency, such as the county sheriff or municipal police, should be the first person contacted. Even if remnants of an old coffin are associated with the human remains, the sheriff will first need to determine if the remains reflect a crime scene. If the remains are not associated with a missing person or do not reflect a homicide, the Unmarked Burial Sites Preservation Board, assisted by the Kansas Historical Society, assumes jurisdiction and control of the burial site.



Professional Archaeologists  
of Kansas

## Burial Laws in Kansas

A guide to complying with laws regarding human burials.

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