

## BURIAL PRESERVATION BOARD

The Burial Preservation Board was created in 1991 under the Human Skeletal Remains and Burial Site Protection Act. The purpose of the Board is to protect human skeletal remains, burial sites, and burial materials, found on state and private lands in Montana, from disturbance or destruction. It is also to resolve claims for repatriation of human skeletal remains and funerary objects.

### BOARD MEMBERS

**John Murray**, Blackfeet Reservation  
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**William Big Day**, Chair, Crow Reservation  
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**Rosemary Caye**, Flathead Reservation  
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**Vacant**, Rocky Boy's Reservation

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**Greg Kirkwood**, Coroner's Association  
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**Vacant**, Public Representative

## BURIAL PRESERVATION BOARD STAFF MEMBERS

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### TRIBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

**Blackfeet Reservation**  
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**Crow Reservation**  
406-638-2957

**Flathead Reservation**  
406-675-4700

**Fort Belknap Reservation**  
406-353-2933

**Fort Peck Reservation**  
406-768-5565

**Northern Cheyenne Reservation**  
406-477-8249

**Rocky Boy's Reservation**  
406-395-4184

**Little Shell Tribe Historic Preservation Office**  
406-315-2400

*This information will be made available in  
alternate formats upon request.*

# STATE OF MONTANA

## Burial Preservation Board



## WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND HUMAN REMAINS

*A Guide for Coroners,  
Local Law Enforcement,  
and Property Owners*

## If Human Remains, a Burial Site, or Burial Materials are Discovered:

- Cease all activity at the site and **immediately** call the Coroner.
- The Coroner may seize the remains if a criminal inquiry or inquest is warranted.
- If the Coroner determines an inquiry or inquest is not warranted, the Coroner shall call the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) **within 24 hours**. If SHPO cannot be contacted, the Coroner will call the nearest member of the State Burial Preservation Board or law enforcement at the nearest reservation.
- Unless there is suspicion of a crime scene or the Board has made another finding, **burial sites and human remains must be protected and preserved in place regardless of ethnic origin, burial context, or age of burial site.**
- All burial sites must be avoided and not physically disturbed. Montana Code Annotated, Title 46, Chapter 4 does not authorize removal of remains solely for documentation of ethnicity or age or other study. **Removal or disturbance of human remains other than in a coroner's inquiry or inquest should occur only after other alternatives (primarily preservation in place) have been considered by the Board.**

## Human Skeletal Remains and Burial Site Protection Act Procedures

**NOTE:** A person may be subject to criminal and civil penalties for violating the Human Skeletal Remains and Burial Protection Act [22-3-808, MCA]

