



**OFFICE OF THE CORONER  
COUNTY OF CHESTER**  
Coroner: Christina VandePol, M.D.

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“Committed Service and  
Responsiveness”

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For Immediate Release  
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Photo Caption: Chester County Coroner Dr. Christina VandePol and Chief Deputy  
Coroner Sophia Garcia-Jackson  
Photo Credit: Justine Newman

The Chester County Coroner’s Office is pleased to announce the appointment of Sophia Garcia-Jackson to the position of Chief Deputy Coroner. Garcia-Jackson has been the First Deputy Coroner for the past year and came to Chester County after almost 6 years as a medicolegal death investigator with the New Jersey Medical Examiner’s Office. Her responsibilities as First Deputy Coroner have included establishing an investigator training program, supervising and strengthening the transporter function, updating the Coroner’s Office Mass Fatality plan, and expanding the department’s public outreach program. In addition to a Master’s degree in Forensic Medicine, Garcia-Jackson has been a diplomate of the American Board of Medicolegal Investigators (D-ABMDI) since 2017.

Originally from California, Garcia-Jackson has an undergraduate degree in Anthropology from California State University, Chico, where she also earned a certificate in forensic identification while working at the University’s Human Identification Lab. She then completed a Master’s degree in Forensic Medicine at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, including an internship at the Philadelphia Medical Examiner’s Office. Garcia-Jackson’s ongoing training includes a Forensic Science Training Program with the New York City Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Most recently, as required by Pennsylvania law, she successfully completed Pennsylvania’s Basic Coroner Education Course.

“I am thrilled that Sophia will be our Chief Deputy Coroner,” said Coroner Christina VandePol, M.D. “After reviewing applications from around the country, it was clear that the right person was our own First Deputy Coroner, Sophia Garcia-Jackson. Sophia is recognized as an expert medicolegal death investigator not only by our staff, but by our colleagues in local law enforcement. It’s important to have a highly qualified Chief Deputy Coroner because by law that person steps in if anything happens to the Coroner.”

Garcia-Jackson resides in West Whiteland Township with her husband, Blake, and their dog Chico, a Chihuahua mix. She met her husband while both were on a study

abroad program in Ghana, West Africa. She loves cooking and the Coroner's Office is the frequent beneficiary of her culinary talent.

The Chester County Coroner's Office is an independent agency serving the citizens and honoring the deceased of the county by investigating the facts and circumstances concerning jurisdictional deaths which have occurred within Chester County. We determine the cause and manner of death, the identity of the decedent, and provide notification to the legal next of kin, while exhibiting the highest degree of compassion, professionalism, and integrity.