The Coroners Court in Tasmania

THE CORONERS COURT IN TASMANIA:

A guide for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families

THIRRILI

Losing a family or community member to suicide is heart-breaking. Families and communities deeply feel the loss of a loved one to suicide especially during times of sorry business. What can make things harder is when the death of a loved one to suicide is investigated by a coroner. Speaking and hearing about the loss of a loved one to suicide can be very emotional. The coronial process can be complicated and long, holding up the time when a deceased person can finally rest, and families and communities can heal from grief.

Even though it can be hard for families to go through, it is an important way for mob to have their say and voice heard and make the coroner see opportunities for change so this doesn't happen to someone else.

Thirrili and Norton Rose Fulbright have partnered together to help guide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities through some of the challenges of dealing with the Coroners Court during times of sorry business and have their voice heard. We pay our respect to the First Nations people of Australia whose Country was never ceded. We acknowledge the devastating impact of suicide on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

This guide helps explain the role and processes of the Coroners Court of Tasmania when it is investigates a death. It tells you about the kinds of deaths investigated by a coroner and the difference between an investigation and an inquest. The guide also explains how the Coroners Court can support you and your loved ones throughout the coronial process and how the Coroners Court can respect cultural protocols.

This Guide to The Coroners Court of Tasmania for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people includes 9 fact sheets with information for families and communities to make the process of dealing with the coroner easier and more manageable.

Disclaimer: The legal information in this Guide is to help guide you through some of the challenges of dealing with the Coroners Court during times of sorry business. It is not legal advice. Please consult with your local Aboriginal Legal Service or other legal professional to make sure this information is right for you.

This information was last updated in December 2024 and does not constitute legal advice.

For more help contact

The Coroners Court of Tasmania via phone or email: (03) 616 57134 or at Coroners.Hbt@magistratescourt.tas.gov.au

Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania via phone or email: 1300 366 611 or at webquery@legalaid.tas.gov.au

Tasmanian Aboriginal Community Legal Service via phone: 1800 064 865

FACT SHEET 1

What is the Coroners Court and the role of a Coroner?

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The Coroners Court of Tasmania is an expert court that was set up to investigate and help understand the cause of certain types of deaths including suicide and those due to self-harm. A coroner is a representative of the Court and is the main person in charge of the investigation.

It is the role of the coroner to investigate the death to find out when and where the person died, how they died, and suggest changes to try and prevent the same thing happening to someone else.

In some investigations, a coroner will also hold an 'inquest' which are public hearings where people are called to the Coroners Court to give evidence.

The coronial process is slow. It can take months or even years. It can take a long time because the coroner may need to talk to many other people about the circumstances of the death, such as the hospital, the police, or a government service.

The Coroners Court does not have the power to:

- conduct a criminal trial;
- find someone guilty of a crime;
- order compensation be paid to the family of the deceased; or
- send a person to prison.

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FACT SHEET 2

What types of death will a Coroner investigate?

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Coroners do not investigate all deaths, only deaths that are reported to them by law.

These include:

- a death that is unexpected, unnatural or violent, or caused by an accident or injury;
- a death that happens unexpectedly during or after a medical procedure;
- a death that happens when the person who died was in custody or care;
- when the cause of death is unknown;
- a death of a child under one which was sudden and unexpected;
- when the identity of the person is not known; and
- when a death occurs as a result from an accident or injury at work and does not appear to be from natural causes.

There must also be a connection with Tasmania, such as the death occurring in Tasmania or that the deceased usually lived in Tasmania.

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The Coroners Court in Tasmania

FACT SHEET 3

How a Coroner investigates a death

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Initial stage

- Once a report of a death is received by the Coroners Court of Tasmania, usually from the police or health and emergency professionals, the deceased person is taken into the care of the Coroners Court and a coroner will be begin their investigation.
- The senior next of kin is often contacted by the Coroners Court to provide information about the deceased's life or circumstances to assist the investigation (for more information, see Fact Sheet 5: Next of kin and the Coroners Court).

The gathering of information stage

- An investigation may vary with the circumstances of the death but usually includes:
  - gathering a range of information from police, family, friends, medical practitioners, witnesses, technical experts, and any other relevant persons to assist the coroner to form a picture about what happened and why. More often than not, a coroner is able to make a written finding into a death based on this information, without having to hold an inquest;
  - attending the scene of the death (if safe and appropriate to do so);
  - directing that an autopsy be performed on the deceased (for more information, see Fact Sheet 9: My loved one's body and things , including if you wish to object to an autopsy being performed);
  - requesting Tasmania Police provide statements, reports, and information about the death; and
  - conducting research and considering potential recommendations.
- The Coroners Court will communicate with the senior next of kin throughout the investigation process.

Making a finding

- A coronial finding is the formal document that a coroner writes after an investigation of a death and it is usually the last step in the investigation.
- A finding usually includes:
  - the identity of the deceased;
  - the cause of the death;
  - the circumstances of the death; and
  - comments or recommendations made by the coroner aimed at preventing similar deaths.
- There are two kinds of findings:
  - a 'finding without an inquest', which is where a coroner makes a finding on the available information without a public hearing. Most coronial investigations end with a finding without an inquest; and
  - an 'inquest finding', which is where a coroner delivers a finding after a public hearing is held. A copy of the inquest finding is published on the Magistrates Court website in the Coroners Court section under 'Coronial Findings'.
- A coroner **may** comment on any matter connected with a death, including matters relating to public health and safety or the administration of justice.
- A coroner **must not** include in a finding or comment any statement that a person is, or may be, guilty of an offence. t there is no public interest in making a finding.

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FACT SHEET 4

Inquests into a death

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An inquest is a public hearing of the investigation into a death which is held at a Magistrate Court location closest to where the death occurred or where the deceased lived. An inquest is an inquiry that tries to find out why the death happened and, if appropriate, to make recommendations to prevent deaths occurring in the same or similar circumstances in the future. An inquest is not a trial to decide if someone is legally responsible for a death.

There are some deaths which a coroner **must** hold an inquest, including if:

- homicide is suspected;
- a person dies in custody or in care;
- the person's identity is unknown;
- a person dies whilst escaping or attempting to escape from prison, a detention centre, a secure mental health unit, or police custody;
- a person dies while in the process of being detained; or
- the person died at, or because of, an accident or injury that occurred at their place of work and the coroner is not satisfied that the death was due to natural causes.

In other cases, a coroner will **may** decide to hold an inquest if:

- the circumstances surrounding the death are unclear; and/or
- there are broader issues of public health and safety that the coroner believes need to be examined.

What is a 'hand-up' inquest?

- In some cases, where a person dies in circumstances which normally require a mandatory inquest, the coroner may decide that an inquest with oral evidence is not required. An example where this might occur is when a person dies in custody as a natural progression of a terminal illness and an autopsy confirms this as the cause of the death.
- In these cases, the coroner may hold what is termed as an 'inquest on the papers' or 'hand-up' inquest, which involves the relevant evidence being tendered (handed-up) in court but no witnesses being called to provide oral evidence.

Can I request an inquest be held into the death of a loved one?

Any person with sufficient interest can ask that a coroner hold an inquest into a death. To do so you should give reasons why you believe an inquest is needed. Importantly, making a request does not mean an inquest will be held.

For further information for legal assistance, see Fact Sheet 8: What happens after the coronial process.

Who can attend?

- Generally, anyone can attend an inquest. People who may wish to attend include:
- Family members of the deceased. Family members may also be called as witnesses. You will be given advanced notice and receive a document issued by the Coroners Court of Tasmania if you are required by the coroner to appear as a witness and give evidence.
- Expert witnesses. Expert witnesses are people who specialise in certain fields and help the coroner understand complex information relating to the death they are investigating.
- Police witnesses. Police witnesses are often the police officers who were the first responders to the scene of the death and tell the coroner what they did, heard and/or saw at the scene.
- General witnesses. General witnesses are the individuals who did, heard or saw something that may help the coroner with their investigation.
- Interested Parties. People that the coroner has given permissions to attend as an 'interested party'.
- Media. Journalists and media outlets may attend inquests and report on what is said during the inquest.

Interested parties

- In coronial proceedings, an interested party is a person, group or organisation who the coroner is satisfied has a sufficient interest in the coroner's investigation.

- An interested party has some rights during an inquest, including the right to:
  - appear at the inquest, including with legal representation;
  - call, examine and ask witnesses questions during the inquest;
  - make submissions to the coroner; and
  - be provided with copies of documents the coroner intends to consider as part of their investigation.
- A person, group or organisation must make an application to the coroner should they wish to be considered an interested party. If you wish to make such an application and require further information or legal assistance, see Fact Sheet
- The senior next of kin does not need to make an application to be an interested party (for more information, see Fact Sheet 5: Next of Kin and the Coroners Court

Determining the scope of an inquest

- The coroner decides the best way to run the inquest and what information and issues to look at and who they want to hear from as witnesses.
- The coroner determines the scope of the inquest before the inquest begins by conducting smaller hearings known as a 'case management hearings'.
- Case management hearings may occur at any stage in the proceedings and:
  - allow parties in an investigation to understand what has been done in the investigation and what is still to come;
  - allow parties to ask questions, advise the coroner of any issues and provide information relevant to the investigation; and
  - help parties to understand what the issues in an inquest are and what they may need to do to prepare for the inquest.

What happens during an inquest?

Even though each inquest is different, most follow these procedures:

- When the inquest begins, the lawyers representing the family of the deceased or other interested parties introduce themselves and say who they are representing.
- Either the Coroner or counsel assisting the coroner will read an opening summary.
- Witnesses will be called one at a time to talk about their knowledge of the death. In some cases, a witness statement may be read out. Counsel assisting the coroner will then ask the witness any questions. The lawyers representing the family of the deceased or other interested parties will then ask the witness any questions. If the family is not represented by a lawyer, the counsel assisting the coroner will check with the family as to whether they would like the witness to be asked any questions.
- When all witnesses have been heard, the coroner will ask for final submissions. These submissions may be said in Court out loud or may be submitted in writing to the coroner. If the family of the deceased are not represented by a lawyer, the coroner may ask them if there is anything they wish to say.
- When the coroner believes that all relevant evidence has been heard, they will adjourn (postpone) the matter so that they can complete their finding.
- The Coroners Court staff will let you know when the coroner is ready to give their finding.

How long does an inquest go for?

It varies. The length of an inquest depends on how complicated the circumstances surrounding a death are and how many witnesses and submissions need to be considered. Some inquests may only last a few hours, while others may occur over several weeks or months.

Legal representation for family members

Families attending an inquest can choose to have a lawyer represent them. However, the Coroners Court cannot help a family choose a lawyer (for more information, see Fact Sheet 6: Cultural Protocols in Coronial Investigations).

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Working with families and communities after suicide

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FACT SHEET 5

Next of Kin and the Coroners Court

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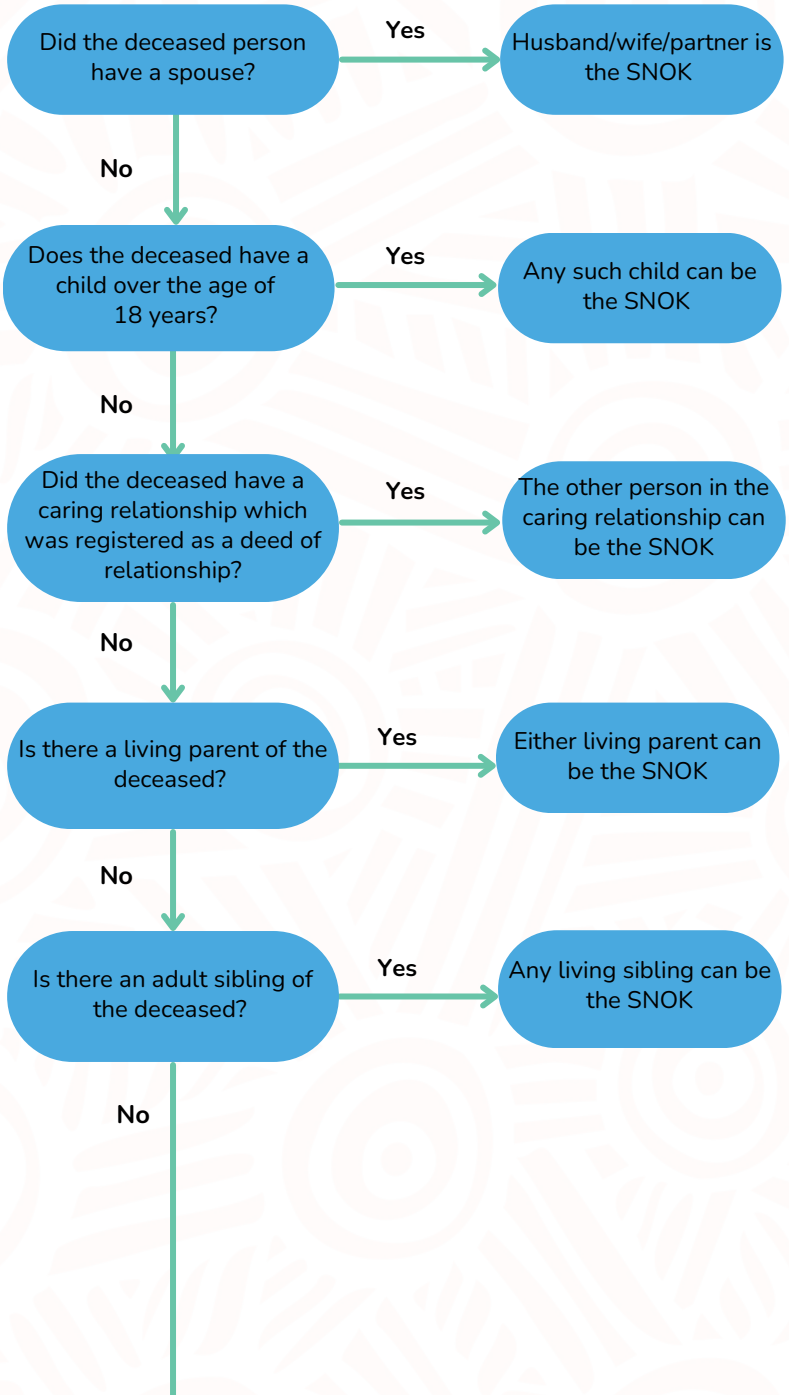
This fact sheet explains which family members and friends can make important decisions in the coronial process. This fact sheet does not apply to deaths in custody.

Who can make decisions after someone dies?

The following flow chart will help you determine who can make a decision when someone dies suddenly. This person is called the 'senior next of kin' (SNOK) of a deceased person. The SNOK is the first available person from the flow chart.



FAQ: What if the deceased had more than one husband/wife/partner?

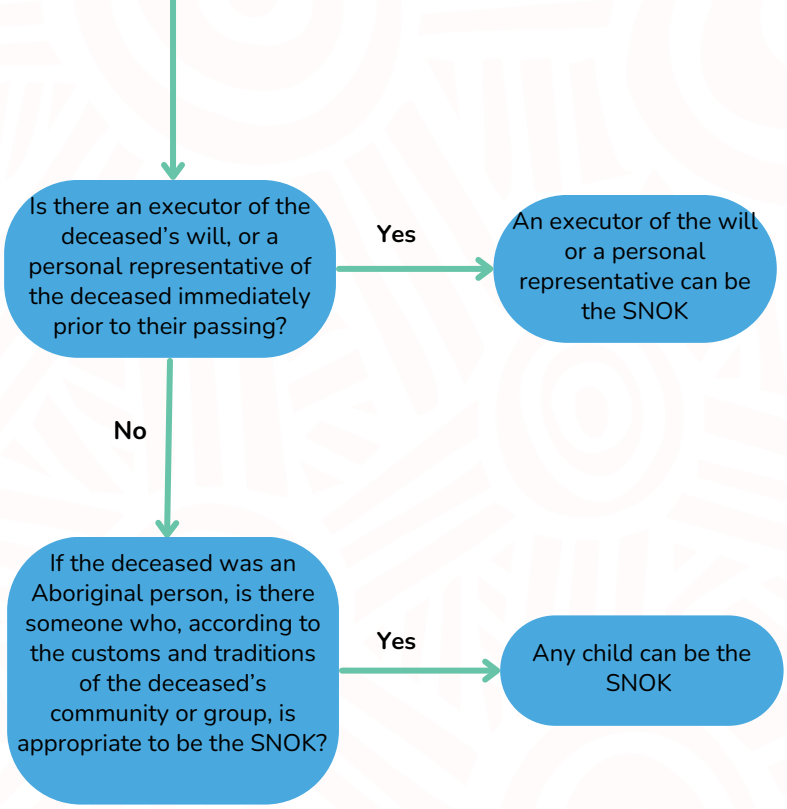
The most recent husband/wife/ partner is the SNOK (although the most recent spouse can delegate this to an earlier spouse).

FAQ: What is a 'caring relationship'? How is it registered?

A caring relationship exists between two adults who are not married or related but provide each other with domestic support and personal care.

FAQ: What is an exhumation?

The Coroner might need to investigate the remains of the deceased person after they have already been buried or cremated. To do so, they will have to remove the deceased from their resting place.



What role does the SNOK have?

The SNOK is the main point of contact for the Coroners Court. The SNOK will be informed about:

- *the purpose of the coronial process;*

·the process for identifying the deceased;

- *how to visit the deceased person;*
- *how to visit the place of death; and*
- *details and updates of investigations including the evidence being provided to the coroner, copies of which the SNOK can request.*
- *The SNOK will be contacted at the start of any investigation. They may be asked to provide a statement or affidavit about the deceased's life.*

Autopsies

An autopsy is an examination of the body of a deceased person to determine how they died. A SNOK has rights in relation to autopsies.

A SNOK can:

- request an autopsy;
- request that an autopsy not be held.

If the coroner decides that an autopsy is necessary despite a SNOK's objection:

- the coroner must immediately give notice in writing to the SNOK and not perform the autopsy for 48 hours (unless the coroner believes it is necessary); and
- within 48 hours of receiving notice, a SNOK may apply to the Supreme Court for an order that an autopsy not be performed.

In relation to the body, a SNOK can:

- make any decisions relating to the burial of the remains;
- give written consent to any other person to make decisions relating to the burial of the remains;
- apply in writing for a permit authorising the cremation of the deceased;
- give consent for a medical practitioner to access the medical records of the deceased person; and
- give instructions to the crematorium manager on what to do with the cremated remains.
- In relation to the holding of inquests, a SNOK will be notified in writing if it is decided that an inquest will not be held. If this happens, the SNOK has 14 days to apply to the Supreme Court for an order that an inquest be held.

Exhumation

An exhumation is the removal of a buried body from its resting place. A SNOK has rights in relation to exhumations.

In relation to exhumation:

- unless it is impossible, 48 hours' notice must be given to the SNOK that an exhumation of the deceased's body will take place;
- a SNOK can make a request to the coroner that an exhumation not take place (if the SNOK makes such a request, the body cannot be exhumed for 48 hours); and

- within 48 hours of receiving notice of an intended exhumation, the SNOK may apply to the Supreme Court for an order that an exhumation not take place. The Supreme Court may make an order that the body not be exhumed.

In relation to the publication of reports, a SNOK can request that certain details, including the deceased's name, are not publicly disclosed.

FAQ: What is an exhumation?

The Coroner might need to investigate the remains of the deceased person after they have already been buried or cremated. To do so, they will have to remove the deceased from their resting place.

I am not the SNOK. What rights do I have?
Anybody can apply to be an 'interested party'

An interested party can:

- make submissions to the coroner as to relevant witnesses;
- request an autopsy;
- provide arguments for or against an exhumation;
- ask for access to documents; and
- appeal against decisions of the coroner to the Supreme Court of Victoria.

What can I do if the coroner won't accept me as the SNOK despite my role in the community?

- ·You can appeal the coroner's decision to the Supreme Court.

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FAQ: Who is an 'interested person'?

An interested person has a 'sufficient interest' in the matter. These terms are not defined, but may include:
-family members of the deceased;
-people who have information which is relevant to the investigation; and
-people whose interests may be affected by the coroner's findings.

To be considered an interested person, an application with proof of identity must be made via email to the coroner at coroners.hobart@police.tas.gov.au (for Southern investigations) or coroners.launceston@police.tas.gov.au (for Northern investigations).

The Coroners Court in Tasmania

FACT SHEET 6

Cultural Protocols in Coronial Investigations

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This fact sheet explains the role of culture in a coronial inquest when a family member dies and who you can speak to for help to get the coroner to understand your traditions.

Making the coroner understand our sorry business and culture

- Contact the Coroners Court as soon as you can to tell them about your communities' sorry business. They may take this into account when arranging the investigation. The sooner they know about your cultural needs, the more likely they will be able to incorporate them into the investigation.

Visiting a deceased person

- At first, your family members body will be taken to the mortuary at the Royal Hobart Hospital or the Launceston General Hospital. Once they are moved to the funeral home you can visit them. They will not go to the funeral home right away because the coroner will have to get all the evidence from the body they need first. Usually, it will take 2-4 days for your family member's body to be released from the mortuary to the funeral home.

- In special cases, the coroners' office may authorise a viewing of the deceased person at the mortuary before they are released from the Royal Hobart Hospital or the Launceston General Hospital. You will need ask the coroner if they will allow this.

Next of kin

- You, or your legal representative, can apply to the Coroners Court to be the senior next of kin. This the person who has special rights during the investigation. The senior next of kin can also be an 'appropriate person' according to the customs and tradition of the community or group to which the person belonged (for more information, see Fact Sheet 5: Next of Kin and the Coroner's Court).

Language

- The Coroners Court can try to organise an interpreter who speaks your language at the hearing. You or your lawyers can ask court staff to arrange this.

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More help

Coroners Court of Tasmania can be contacted via phone: (03) 616 57134

Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service can be contacted via phone:1800 595 162

FACT SHEET 7

The role of the Tasmanian Police force in the coronial process

THIRRILI

This fact sheet explains the role of the Tasmanian police force in a coronial inquest when a family member dies suddenly. The fact sheet explains what to expect when talking to the police throughout the coronial process.

What is the role of the police?

- The Tasmanian police are required to report sudden or unexplained deaths to the coroner.
- The police will start gathering information immediately after a death to provide an initial report to the coroner.
- If the coroner decides the death was not due to natural circumstances, the police are directed to carry out a full investigation.
- The police may ask for reports from experts and statements from witnesses, including family and friends as a part of their investigation.
- During a coronial hearing, the police may identify an individual as a witness who will receive a summons to appear in court. If they don't attend the hearing, the coroner may issue a warrant for their arrest which will be carried out by the police.
- The police provide a report to the coroner about their investigation (a brief of evidence) which the coroner will use to help find out the cause and circumstances of the death of a loved one.

Communicating with the Police

- The police are expected to provide updates on the status of the investigation and the coronial process to the families.
- The police may request a statement from family members about the deceased and the circumstances of the death. You only need to provide a statement to police if you want to.
- If you are unable or uncomfortable discussing your sorry business with the police you can nominate someone else to discuss your cultural needs with them.
- Families do not need a lawyer when they give a statement to the police, but they are entitled to one if they want. All families of First Nation Peoples are entitled to have legal representation and legal advice relating to the coronial process.

This information was last updated in December 2024 and does not constitute legal advice.

More help

For independent legal services;

- Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service | TALS
- legalaid.tas.gov.au

FACT SHEET 8

What happens after the coronial process?

THIRRILI

This fact sheet explains the legal steps that can be taken after a coroner has handed down their findings and any available legal options for families when contesting the findings of the coronial process. You should always get your own legal advice before taking any legal action.

Where can I get a copy of the coroner's findings?

Following an investigation by a coroner into the death, the coroner will hand down a written finding. A copy of the finding will be sent to the senior next of kin. Findings are sometimes put on the Magistrates Court website in the Coroners Court section, under Coronial Findings. You can search for a particular finding by name, a case number, type of death or location of death using the search field.

What is a coroner's finding and what does it mean for the deceased's family?

- A finding by the coroner is made following an investigation into a death and provides the identity of the deceased, the time, date and place of death, a summary of the evidence relating to the circumstances of the death, in some cases the coroner's comments or recommendations aimed at preventing similar deaths.
- A finding handed down by the coroner is not the same as a judgment handed down by a judge in a court room. It is a fact-finding process and will not find anyone guilty of a crime, or solve any of the problems experienced by the community affected by the death.
- Speak to a lawyer about options if you wish to take further legal action after a coroner has made their findings.

Applying to have findings set aside and reopening investigations

- Any person can apply to the Chief Magistrate (the person who oversees the Coroners Court) requesting the investigation be reopened and some or all its findings be re-examined.
- The Chief Magistrate may decide to do so if they are satisfied that:
  - the investigation was or may have been tainted by fraud;
  - the investigation was not sufficiently thorough or was compromised by evidentiary or procedural irregularity;
  - there are mistakes in the record of the findings;
  - new facts or evidence affecting the findings have come to light; or
  - the findings were not supported by the evidence; or
  - there is another compelling reason to reopen the investigation.
- To make an application, you must complete the relevant form available on the Magistrates Court website
- Even if the Chief Magistrate refuses to reopen an inquest, any person may apply to the Supreme Court for an order that all or any of the findings of an inquest are void.
- If the Supreme Court orders that all or any of the findings of the inquest are void, it may order the inquest be reopened and the findings re-examined or for a brand new inquest to take place.

Appealing decisions around dealing with the body

Autopsies

- If a coroner investigates a death, any person who the coroner considers has a sufficient interest in the death may request the coroner to direct that an autopsy be performed on the body. Within 48 hours after receiving notice of a refusal of that request, the person may apply to the Supreme Court for an order that an autopsy be performed.

- Where a senior next of kin objects to an autopsy being performed and requests a coroner not to direct it, but the coroner decides it is necessary, the senior next of kin has 48 hours after receiving notice of the coroner's decision to apply to the Supreme Court for an order that the autopsy not be performed.

Exhumations

- Where the Chief Magistrate refuses the senior next of kin's request not to exhume the body, the senior next of kin then has 48 hours after receiving notice of the order to exhume the body, to apply to the Supreme Court for an order that the body of the deceased person not be exhumed.

·For more information, see Fact Sheet 9: My loved one's body and things, including on what is involved in exhumations and autopsies.

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FACT SHEET 9

My loved one's body and things

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This fact sheet explains what happens to the body of your loved when if a medical examination is required, what you can do if you object to a medical procedure happening, and when and who can get the body when the coroner is ready to release it.

What happens to my loved one's things that were with them when they died?

- The Tasmanian Police will take all your loved one's belongings until they are no longer needed. There are two types of items taken by police for a coronial investigation:
    - items taken for safekeeping; and
    - items taken as evidence.

- All items taken by police are held at the 'police property store' at the relevant police station (usually Hobart or Launceston). If the police take items for safekeeping (for example, a deceased person's wallet or keys) these can be returned to families and friends very quickly. Sometimes items such as clothing may be disposed of if they are soiled, damaged or wet, or if occupational health and safety could be negatively affected. If the police take something as evidence for the investigation, it stays in the custody of the coroner until their findings are complete.

- Once the findings are handed down, the coroner will usually release any evidence taken by police to the senior next of kin.

What happens to the body?

- If the body requires medical examination, the body will be transported to the mortuary at the Royal Hobart Hospital or the Launceston General Hospital.

Preliminary examination

A doctor or pathologist will do a 'preliminary examination' of the body of a deceased which is not very invasive. This might include things like collecting fingerprints, looking inside at the teeth and inside the mouth. The internal organs are left alone.

Autopsy

- An autopsy is a type of medical procedure performed by a pathologist. It might also be referred to as a 'post-mortem'.

- An autopsy includes external and internal examinations using techniques like those used in surgical operations. The chest, abdomen and skull are examined, and some organs are examined. This may involve removing the organs.

- In some instances, a more detailed examination of an organ, like the brain or heart, might be necessary to establish the cause of death. If organs are removed, they may be kept for several weeks.

What can I do if I object to the autopsy?

- ·If the senior next of kin (SNOK) wishes to object to an autopsy being performed, please notify the attending police officer or the Coroners Court immediately. If you are unable to notify the Coroners Court (for example, because it is outside business hours and the Coroners Court is not open) you should notify police via the police radio room (131 444). It is very important that the coroner be made aware of the objection as soon as possible, as autopsies are generally carried out as soon as practicable to allow the deceased person to be returned to family quickly (for more informationsee Fact Sheet 5: Next of Kin and the Coroners Court).

- Any objection to the autopsy must be made:
  - in writing to the Coroners Court or to Tasmania Police; and
  - with reasons specified why you object; and
  - within 24 hours of giving your verbal objection.
- The autopsy will not be performed for 48 hours after an objection is received. The coroner will take your concerns into account but may still decide that an autopsy is required. This is more likely to happen if the coroner believes there is a remaining suspicion surrounding the death.
- The coroner must provide notice to the senior next of kin in writing of their decision to refuse your objection. If the coroner notifies you that your objection has been refused, you can apply to the Supreme Court for an order preventing the autopsy. This application needs to be made within 48 hours of being notified by the coroner.

What is exhumation?

- If the body has already been buried and an autopsy is needed, the body may need to be removed from the ground or burial site. This is called exhumation.
- The Chief Magistrate (the person who oversees the Coroners Court) may authorise exhumation is where it is believed an autopsy will provide new evidence.
- If the Chief Magistrate authorises exhumation, they must give 48 hours' notice to the SNOK and the owners of the place of burial, unless the Chief Magistrate is satisfied it is not possible to give notice. If the SNOK has asked the Chief Magistrate not to exhume, the body must not be exhumed until 48 hours after the request has been made.
- If the SNOK wishes to object to an exhumation after they have notified the coroner, then they can apply to the Supreme Court to prevent the exhumation.

When will my family members body be release?

- The coroner will authorise the release of the body as soon as they can.
- Once the coroner has gathered all the information they require from the deceased person's body, they will sign a certificate authorising release of the body.
- If the Coroners Court is aware that family members have contacted a funeral director, then the mortuary staff will call the funeral director when the deceased person is ready to be collected. The Coroners Court will call the senior next of kin and let them know, so the funeral director may also be contacted by families to request that the deceased person be collected. If a family contacts a funeral director, they will liaise with the mortuary to transfer the deceased person into their care as soon as practicable.
- If there is a dispute about who to release the body to, the parties must apply to the Supreme Court under probate law. There is no rule that specifies that the person whom the coroner names SNOK has a right to collect the deceased person.

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More help

For more information about the process in general from the Magistrates Court of Tasmania visit the following webpages:

- Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service | TALS
- legalaid.tas.gov.au