



The role of the police in the coronial process

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

What is the role of the police?

After the death of a loved one.

- Police officers provide information to the next of kin. The police officer will provide a brochure, "When a Person Dies Suddenly". The police will talk to you about your role and rights in the coronial process.
- The police may contact you to identify the deceased person – you may be required to go to the State Mortuary in Perth or the local hospital, in the event the person was not identified at the place of death.
- The police may ask further questions surrounding the death of your loved one, such as their daily routines, their medical history and the people they worked with or associated with, may asked by the police or the Coroner's Office.
- The WA Police will gather information after a death to provide to the coroner. The documents the police will prepare for the coroner include:
 - Witness statements;
 - Police reports;
 - Autopsy report;
 - Toxicology report;
 - Photos; and
 - Other forensic material.

During the coronial hearing.

- Generally, the police's role in the hearing is minimal at the Inquest. The coroner will hear evidence from relevant witnesses who have information about the death.

More help

For more information about your options regarding coronial investigations:

- Aboriginal Legal Service (ALSWA)
- Legal Aid WA
- Legal Yarn: 1800 319 803 (for First Nations callers)

