



# 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.
- 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 at the hearing is minimal. 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)



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