

fully investigated, the Coroner may issue an Interim Death Certificate. This will help you deal with the dead person's affairs.

The Coroner's Officers and your own undertaker will be able to discuss any concerns you may have.

The Coroner's Officers telephone numbers are:
01803 655255 and 01803 655205.

There is further information available at the Offices of the Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages and on the Coroner's web page, which may be accessed at:
www.torbay.gov.uk/coroner.

**Further useful information
can be found at:**

www.torbay.gov.uk/coroner



Someone has died

Why is the
Coroner
involved?

Common questions answered



The death was expected

If the death was expected you should contact the Doctor who looked after the person who has died during their final illness. If the Doctor can certify the medical cause of death, he or she will give you:

- a) a Medical Certificate that shows cause of death,
- b) an envelope addressed to the Registrar,
- c) a formal notice explaining the Doctor has signed a Medical Cause of Death Certificate which tells you how to register the death.

Unexpected or sudden death

If the Doctor is unable to issue a Certificate, or if the death is sudden or unexpected, then the death will be reported to the Coroner.

The Coroner will order a Post Mortem Examination where the Medical Cause of Death is not known. The relatives'

permission is not required for that. The examination is directed to ascertaining a medical cause of death. The Coroner acts as an independent judicial officer in making that decision. The Post Mortem examination will normally take place at the Mortuary in Torbay Hospital. If you require further information you should speak to the Coroner's Officers about the process.

Once a Post Mortem examination is carried out then, if it reveals a natural cause, no further enquiry will be necessary and the Coroner will issue the necessary Certificates to enable the death to be registered and the funeral to proceed.

In certain circumstances it may be necessary to retain the body for a while. The Coroner will endeavour to release the body as soon as possible so that the funeral arrangements can proceed. You will normally be able to see the body if that is your wish. This

will be in the Hospital Chapel of Rest by prior arrangement.

Once the Coroner is satisfied the body is not required for further investigative work, a burial or cremation certificate or an Out of England certificate will be issued to enable a funeral to proceed.

In certain circumstances an enquiry will be held into the circumstances leading to the death, which is formally called an Inquest. In those circumstances the Coroner's Officer will contact the relatives. Once the Inquest had been completed the Coroner will send a Certificate to the Registrar, which will enable the Registrar to register the death. Once the death is registered, relatives or Executors may obtain a death certificate. The Coroner has a leaflet with these contact details should you need one.

In circumstances where there may be some time delay between the death being reported and the matter being