



Coroners Cases in Aged Care

What deaths need to be referred to the coroner?

Deaths directly related to trauma, eg people palliated after hip fracture, head injury or other injury.
Deaths within four weeks of surgery (includes minor surgery)
Sudden death where the cause is unclear

What do I need to do?

Do not call the funeral director to collect the body.

Phone the police non-urgent number and inform the operator that you have a death that needs to be discussed with the coroner.

They will put you through to a police officer (usually a sergeant) who will take basic details and organise for another officer to attend the facility.

This officer will take more information and speak to the coroner's office in Hobart. They may want the GP contact number so they can get further information from them.

They will decide if the Coroner's office is going to take possession of the body, in which case they will arrange for a mortuary van to take it to Launceston.

What to tell the family

Ideally the family will have been made aware of this unless the death was unexpected.

They can stay with the body for as long as they need, and the phone calls can be made after they leave.

They cannot undress, wash or make any significant change to the body. All medical devices like subcutaneous lines must be left in place (you can disconnect and discard syringe drivers etc).

If the Coroner takes possession of the body, this does not guarantee a full post mortem. Often CT scans and X-rays are enough. The office has the responsibility to update the family as to what is happening, and if there will be a full coronial case etc.

If the Coroner takes possession of the body, notify the chosen funeral director of what has happened so they know to follow up, and so the funeral arrangements are minimally delayed. They will be used to this situation and can assist the family as well.