

Important Early Steps for Families in the NSW Coronial Process

Four moments where you or your family can speak up

1



Police at the Scene

NSW Police | Family Liaison Officer | At the scene within a reasonable time

When police attend, you can speak with the Officer in Charge or the assigned Family Liaison Officer about your religious or cultural needs. They will share this information with the coronial team and Forensic Medicine.

Things you may wish to raise include:

- How you would like the deceased person to be handled and cared for
- The legal Senior Next of Kin (SNOK) can request a preferred point of contact
- Religious or cultural ceremonies and practices that are important to you
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families may wish to request support through ACISP.



You do not have to raise anything at this stage. There will be further opportunities to speak with the coronial team.

2



Call from the Coronial Information and Support Program (CISP) or Forensic Medicine Social Work Team (FMSW)

A social worker will contact the SNOK | Generally within 48 business hours

A social worker will contact the SNOK to discuss the family's needs, wishes and views about examination.

This is the main opportunity to share your needs and wishes.

Some things you may wish to raise include:

- A request for priority release of the deceased person to meet burial or cremation timeframes
- Requests for viewing the deceased person at the mortuary, where possible
- A request for a non-invasive medical examination, where possible
- Nominating an elder or community representative on your behalf
- A request for a pathologist of a specific gender, where possible
- Referrals to support services
- Any other religious, cultural or spiritual needs or wishes you would like considered
- Any other concerns you have



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families may wish to request to speak with an Aboriginal Coronial Information and Support Program (ACISP) officer.

3



Formal Objection to a Medical Examination

Senior Next of Kin to Coroner | If medical investigations are ordered

A social worker will discuss the family's views on examination during the admission call. The SNOK can also put any concerns or objections in writing to the Coroner. CISP can assist you through this process.. If you wish to object, here is what happens:

- Write to the Coroner setting out your reasons, which may include religious or cultural beliefs. CISP can help you prepare this.
- If your objection is not accepted, you will be notified in writing
- Your objection will be considered.
- From the time you receive that notice, you have 48 hours to apply to the Supreme Court if you wish to take the matter further.
- Less invasive examination options will be considered before any final decision is made.
- CISP can connect you with legal support to help with that process.



You can also seek independent legal advice. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people may contact Aboriginal Legal Service: 1800 765 767 For further information, you may contact the Lidcombe Coroners Court Registry on 02 8584 7777 or at lidcombe.coroners@justice.nsw.gov.au

4



Emotional and Practical Support throughout the Process

Forensic Medicine Social Workers and CISP | Available from admission through to the inquests

Forensic Medicine Social Workers (FMSW) provide emotional support, practical assistance and referrals following a death. The Coronial Information and Support Program (CISP) provides information and guidance about the coronial process. If an inquest is required, further information and support will be provided.

Support available through these services includes:

- Emotional support during the coronial process and referrals for ongoing bereavement counselling
- Practical preparation if attending an inquest, including court familiarisation
- Referral to grief and counselling services in your local area, such as Red Nose Australia
- Referrals to StandBy, Lifeline, GriefLine and other specialist support services



CISP can provide local advice and support services.



You are not alone

CISP, NSW Police Family Liaison Officers, FM social workers and the Coroners Court are here to listen, support and respect your religious and cultural needs throughout the coronial process.