

# Coroners' Act Information - ACT

Please check your State and Territory legislation as these are subject to change within each jurisdiction from time to time. The following is a guide only.

Note: When making funeral arrangements, you are not obliged to use the funeral director who first transported the deceased's body to the Coroner.

*The Act: Coroners Act 2008: <http://bit.ly/1GwEoPx>*

*Link: <http://bit.ly/1C2o2yh>*

# Australian Capital Territory

## When does the coroner get involved?

A Coroner must hold an inquest into the manner and cause of death of a person who:

- a. is killed
- b. is found drowned
- c. dies, or is suspected to have died, a sudden death the cause of which is unknown
- d. dies under suspicious circumstances
- e. dies during or within 72 hours after, or as a result of—
  - i. an operation of a medical, surgical, dental or like nature
  - ii. an invasive medical or diagnostic procedure

other than an operation or procedure prescribed by regulation to be an operation or procedure to which this paragraph does not apply

- f. dies and a doctor has not given a certificate about the cause of death
- g. dies not having been attended by a doctor at any time within the period commencing 3 months before the death
- h. dies after an accident where the cause of death appears to be directly attributable to the accident
- i. dies, or is suspected to have died, in circumstances that, in the opinion of the Attorney-General, should be better ascertained
- j. dies in custody

## Immediate family?

The [Coroners Act 1997](http://bit.ly/1BUYG4d) (<http://bit.ly/1BUYG4d>) defines 'immediate family' in relation to a deceased person the subject of an inquest to mean:

- a. a person who was the domestic partner of the deceased, or a parent, grandparent, child, brother or sister, or guardian or ward, of the deceased; and
- b. if the deceased was an Aboriginal person or Torres Strait Islander—a person who, in accordance with the traditions and customs of the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island community of which the deceased was a member, had the responsibility for, or an interest in, the welfare of the deceased.