

# Coroners' Act Information - QLD

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 2003: <http://bit.ly/18N6RFs>*

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

# Queensland

## When does the coroner get involved?

Under the [Coroners Act 2003](http://bit.ly/1Ly1tb2) (<http://bit.ly/1Ly1tb2>) coroners are responsible for investigating reportable deaths that occur in Queensland.

A reportable death is a death where:

- the identity of the person is unknown
- the death was violent or unnatural, such as accidents, falls, suicides or drug overdoses
- the death happened in suspicious circumstances
- a 'cause of death' certificate has not been issued and is not likely to be issued
- the death was a health care related death
- the death occurred in care
- the death occurred in custody
- the death occurred as a result of police operations.

Reportable deaths are usually reported to the coroner by police. When a death is reported the coroner investigates the death to find out the identity of the deceased person, when and where they died, how they died and the medical cause of death.

Police must use the services of the **government contracted funeral director** to transport the person who has died to a mortuary. However, there is no obligation on the family to use this funeral director to conduct the funeral.

**Cause of Death Certificate:** Under section 30 of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Act 2003 a doctor must issue a cause of death certificate if they can form an opinion about the probable cause of death. It is not necessary for the doctor to have actually treated the person as they can consider other information such as the person's medical history.

If the doctor cannot form an opinion about the probable cause of death it must be reported to the coroner. The coroner will order an autopsy to determine the cause of death.

### Useful links:

Coroners Court - Fact Sheets and Publications: <http://bit.ly/19DVRLF>