Coroner's post mortem examination Report

All enquiries concerning the post mortem reports must be directed to the Office of the Cork City Coroner.

The post mortem report and if required, further reports or toxicology tests, may take up to nine months. If second opinions are required, this may take longer.

For guidance, please contact the Cork City Coroners office if you have any further queries.

Who issues the Death Certificate?

A Death Certificate can only be issued by the Civil Registration Office once the Coroner has issued a Coroner's Certificate.

On receipt of the final post mortem examination report, the Coroner will then consider if an inquest is required. If the Coroner decides that an inquest is not necessary, the Civil Registration Office will be notified, and the death may be registered. The Death Certificate will then be issued.

If the Coroner arranges an inquest, the registration of the death will be done at the inquest.

The Coroner's Office will issue you with an Interim Death Certificate approximately 2-3 weeks after death. If you have not received the Death Certificate this can be requested immediately. This interim Certificate is acceptable to the Department of Social and Family Affairs, the Probate Office, and most financial institutions for bereavement grants and other benefits.

Contact Telephone Numbers

Cork City Coroner's office
First Floor,
Courthouse Chambers,
Washington Street,
Cork City.
T12WN8F

Email: coroner@corkcity.ie
Phone number: 021 480 6645

Civil Registration Office
Adelaide Court,
Adelaide St,
Centre,
Cork.
T12 XKC4

Phone number: 021 427 5126

Further Information

www.coroners.ie

HospiceFriendly HOSPITALS

Mercy UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

A GUIDE TO A CORONER'S POST MORTEM EXAMINATION



Introduction



On behalf of our staff, we wish to extend our sincere sympathy to you and your family on your bereavement. We understand this is a sad and difficult time for you. This leaflet is intended to help you understand the reasons for a Coroner's Post Mortem examination and what will happen next.

What is a Coroner's Post Mortem?

Coroners are obliged by law to inquire into and investigate certain deaths to determine the cause of death.

A post mortem examination is a medical examination carried out on the body after death by a specialist medical doctor known as a pathologist.

Role of Coroner

The Coroner is an independent office holder with the legal responsibility for the investigation of certain deaths. The Coroner is required to carry out an independent and impartial investigation into sudden/unexplained/ unnatural or violent deaths.

The Coroner's inquiry will establish whether death was due to natural or unnatural causes. If death is due to unnatural causes, then an inquest must be held by law.

What happens when a death is reported to the Coroner?

Deaths occurring over a wide range of conditions must be reported to the Coroner who then inquires into the circumstances of the death.

Consent from the relatives of the deceased is not required if the Coroner directs a post mortem examination. A senior member of staff will inform you why this death is reportable to the coroner and what it involves.

Formal identification of the body is required in the event of a Coroner's post mortem examination.

A member of An Garda Síochána will act for the Coroner and will arrange a formal identification of the body with a member of the deceased's family (family members are not compelled to view the body against their wishes).

The fact that relatives are met at the hospital by a uniformed Garda to take a statement does not mean that the death is regarded as suspicious.

Where is the Post Mortem Examination carried out?

Post mortem examinations are carried out in special facilities in the Cork University Hospital (CUH) Mortuary. The body of the deceased will be transferred from the Mercy University Hospital (MUH) to the CUH Mortuary by the funeral director appointed by the Coroner.

Will a post mortem examination delay the funeral?

Every effort is made to perform the post mortem examination in a timely manner to avoid delays with funeral arrangements. The body is usually released to the undertaker on the day of the post mortem examination. If your religion requires that you hold a funeral within 24 hours please inform our hospital staff. We will communicate this with the pathologist who may be in the position to carry out the post mortem examination within that time limit.

Most post mortem examinations usually take place within 24 hours unless the person dies on a Friday or over the weekend, then it will be completed the following Monday or in the case of a Bank Holiday the following Tuesday.

We advise you to contact your funeral director as soon as possible. The funeral director must contact the mortuary at CUH who will advise in relation to the date and time of release of the deceased. Funeral arrangements may then be made once you have been advised of the date and time of release of the deceased.

