

**Coroners Act  
(CHAPTER 63A)**

**Table of Contents**

**Long Title**

**Part I PRELIMINARY**

**1 Short title**

**2 Interpretation**

**3 Appointment of State Coroner and Coroners**

**4 Appointment of forensic pathologists**

**Part II REPORTING OF DEATHS AND PRESERVING OF RECORDS**

**5 Obligation to report death**

**6 Reporting of death occurring in official custody**

**7 Reporting of death by police officer**

**8 Duty to preserve medical records by persons in charge of hospital,  
medical clinic and place of custody**

**9 Body not to be moved**

**Part III INVESTIGATIONS INTO DEATHS**

**10 Investigations into deaths**

**11 Police officer to report to Coroner**

**12 Viewing of body by Coroner**

**13 Police officer to report to Public Prosecutor in certain cases**

**14 Duty of police officer to investigate cause of death if directed by Public Prosecutor**

**15 Power of police officer to investigate**

**16 Coroner or Public Prosecutor may direct forensic pathologist to investigate**

**17 Powers of forensic pathologist**

#### **Part IV POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION AND POWERS OF CORONER TO ORDER BURIAL, CREMATION OR EXHUMATION**

**18 When post-mortem examination necessary**

**19 Conduct of post-mortem examination**

**20 Post-mortem examination report and special examination report**

**21 Power of Coroner to order exhumation**

**22 Power of Coroner to order release for burial, cremation, etc.**

**23 Coroner to report to Public Prosecutor if body is released without inquiry**

#### **Part V CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH INQUIRY IS HELD**

**24 Jurisdiction of Coroner to hold inquiry**

**25 Duty of Coroner to hold inquiry**

**26 Power of Public Prosecutor to require inquiry**

#### **Part VI INQUIRIES INTO DEATH**

- 27 Purpose of inquiry**
- 28 Pre-inquiry review**
- 29 Notice of inquiry**
- 30 Summoning of witnesses and production of documents**
- 31 Inquiries to be made public**
- 32 Assessors**
- 33 Evidence by conditioned statements**
- 34 Reading over evidence and correction**
- 35 Questioning of witnesses**
- 36 Manner of recording evidence**
- 37 Rules of evidence not applicable**
- 38 Adjournment of inquiry**
- 39 Adjournment of inquiry when criminal proceedings commenced**
- 40 Adjournment of inquiry when commission or committee appointed under Inquiries Act**
- 41 Change of Coroner**
- 42 Coroner's certificate**
- 43 Forwarding transcripts of evidence, etc.**

## **Part VII MISCELLANEOUS**

- 44 Obstruction of Coroner, etc.**

**45 Admissibility of evidence in subsequent judicial proceedings**

**46 Payment of allowance to witnesses**

**47 Amendment of Schedules**

**48 Exemption**

**49 Regulations**

**50 Savings and transitional provisions**

**FIRST SCHEDULE Services provided by health-care practitioner**

**SECOND SCHEDULE Reportable deaths**

**THIRD SCHEDULE Deaths for which inquiry must be held**

**Legislative Source Key**

**Legislative History**

## **CORONERS ACT**

### **(CHAPTER 63A)**

**(Original Enactment: Act 14 of 2010)**

**REVISED EDITION 2012**

**(31st October 2012)**

**An Act to consolidate the law relating to Coroners' inquiries.**

**[2nd January 2011]**

## **PART I**

## PRELIMINARY

### Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Coroners Act.

### Interpretation

- 2.—(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“body” means a dead person, and includes any part of a person (whether or not the identity of the person concerned is known when the part is discovered or is later determined) —

- (a) without which no person can live; or
- (b) discovered in such circumstances or such state that it is probable that the person is dead,

but does not include a foetus or a still-born child within the meaning of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act (Cap. 267);

“cause of death” includes not only the apparent cause of death as ascertainable by inspection or examination of the body, but also all matters necessary to enable an opinion to be formed as to the manner in which the deceased came by his death;

“Coroner” means a Coroner appointed under section 3(1), and includes the State Coroner;

“forensic pathologist” means a pathologist appointed under section 4(1) as a forensic pathologist;

“health-care practitioner” means a person providing any of the services specified in the First Schedule, but does not include a medical practitioner;

“Health Sciences Authority” means the Health Sciences Authority established under section 3 of the Health Sciences Authority Act (Cap. 122C);

“hospital” means any premises used or intended to be used for the reception, lodging, treatment and care of persons who require medical treatment or care or who suffer from any disease, injury or disability of mind or body, and includes a maternity home and a nursing home;

“inquiry” means an inquiry into any death held by a Coroner under Part VI;

“investigation” means an investigation into a death conducted by a police officer, a