

CORONIAL & OTHER PROCEDURES FOLLOWING A FATAL ROAD ACCIDENT

Time frame	Procedures	Personnel
Immediately after the death*	deceased's life pronounced extinct next of kin notified of the death* identification of deceased's body* (at the scene/at morgue/in hospital) viewing of deceased's body information from next of kin concerning the deceased* personal items returned to next of kin* deceased's body taken to morgue*#	gov't medical officer (C)/hospital doctor police (C)/hospital staff police (C) <i>hospital staff</i> (if death in hospital and family available in Canberra)/Coroner's Officer (C) (at morgue, <i>if special request</i>)# police (C) investigating police officer (C)/hospital staff under coroner's authority (C)
Short term (up to & including the funeral)	post-mortem examination# (often involves autopsy) release of deceased's body from coroner's control <i>family can inquire about cause of death</i> viewing of deceased's body arranging funeral; funeral burial/cremation	mortuary staff, pathologists, Coroner's Officer (C); <i>family/family's doctor(s)#</i> coroner, Coroner's Officer (C); <i>funeral director (authorised by family)</i> Coroner's Officer (C) <i>funeral director</i> <i>funeral director; clergy/lay funeral celebrant</i> <i>cemetery/crematorium staff; funeral director</i>
Medium term (after the funeral)	police investigation, compiling coronial brief of evidence written notification to next of kin of coroner's inquest (investigation) death certificate (<i>without</i> cause of death) (<i>family to request from BDM</i>) written notification to next of kin of inquest (hearing) <i>family can request access to coronial file</i> post-mortem report (<i>family can request report be sent to their doctor for interpretation to them</i>)	police (and sometimes Director of Public Prosecutions); pathologist (C) Coroner's Office (C) Coroner's Office (C); BDM (<i>funeral director often arranges</i>) Coroner's Office (C) Coroner's Office (C) Coroner's Office (C), <i>family's doctor</i>
(often 3 months or more after the death)	inquest (coronial hearing)† <u>if criminal charges</u> : criminal court proceedings death certificate (<i>with</i> cause of death) (<i>family to request from BDM, if not previously requested</i>)	coroner; counsel assisting; police; witnesses (C); <i>solicitor</i> magistrate/judge; DPP; <i>solicitor</i> Coroner's Office (C); BDM
Medium term/ long term	depending on circumstances: <i>insurance claims; compensation; deceased estate (will/intestacy); tax; other financial issues</i>	depending on circumstances: <i>insurers, CTP insurer, workers' compensation, solicitor(s), Registrar of Probate, Public Trustee/trustee company, Centrelink, tax office, employer, superannuation fund, accountant, adviser</i>

NOTES

(C): under the coroner's authority

roman type: statutory procedures

BDM: Births, Deaths & Marriages office

italics: private/family to arrange

* Order of procedures may vary depending on whereabouts of next of kin

Family can ask coroner not to hold post-mortem; can ask coroner's authorisation to view deceased's body, inspect scene of accident/event, be present/represented at post-mortem

† Family can be present and/or represented, can cross-examine witnesses