



South Downs Funeral Service



**The Old Post Office House, Hambledon Road, DENMEAD,
WATERLOOVILLE, Hants. PO7 6NN**

H.M. Coroner

The country is divided into many different areas, with each one having its own coroner to investigate suspicious or unnatural deaths.

Invariably, you will rarely see the coroner, although you will usually liaise with the coroner's officer who is usually a police officer. A death may be referred to the coroner following an accident or injury; when someone passes away from an industrial disease; during an operation; before a patient has recovered from anaesthetic; if the cause of death is unknown, if the death was violent or unnatural or if the death was sudden and unexplained.

In addition to this, if a doctor has not seen the deceased within 14 days prior to death, then this must also be reported to the coroner. Indeed, anyone has the right to refer a death to the coroner, although this is invariably carried out by the police or doctor.

Based upon the evidence provided by either the police or doctor, the coroner may carry out a post mortem, which is a medical examination that will find out further information regarding the cause of death. You do not have the right to object to the post mortem, although you can explain your religious or other strong objections to the coroners officer.

If the post mortem finds that the deceased passed away from natural causes, the coroner will issue a certificate and forward it to the registrar. You can then make an appointment and register the death.

If necessary, the coroner will also order an inquest, which is a type of court case where a jury may be present to establish the reasons behind why the death happened. In many ways, the post mortem can be considered as a way of establishing how the death happened, whereas an inquest is a way of establishing why it happened.

In most cases, the coroner will open and adjourn an inquest to allow the funeral service to proceed, and then re-open it at a later day to establish the facts behind the death.

Where an inquest is ordered by the coroner, an interim death certificate will be provided following adjournment to allow relatives to close bank accounts, claim on insurance policies and obtain probate. When the inquest is re-opened and formally closed at a later date, the coroner will register the death, not the family or deceased's representative.

Coroners procedure can be quite complex and the above only explains how the coroner works, and not the paperwork that may be involved. We will support you with the paperwork and only advise you on your personal circumstances.

Tel: 023 92 231567

www.southdownsfuneralservice.com

care@southdownsfuneralservice.com

