



MAGISTRATES COURT *of* TASMANIA

CORONIAL DIVISION

4 June 2026

Access to coronial documents

When a coroner investigates a death or fire, the Coroners Court of Tasmania (the Court) produces and receives a range of documents. At the end of an investigation the coroner writes a finding/determination. These documents and findings are “coronial documents.” Coronial documents are not always available to the public however you can apply to the coroner to either view or receive a copy of coronial documents. The Court receives on average 100 applications for coronial documents each year. Prior to applying for documents, you should consider that it may be upsetting to read details about a loved one’s death. Some information may be distressing or graphic in nature.

What type of documents does the Court have?

A court file can contain many different documents. This will depend on how complex the investigation is. Some common and most sought-after documents are:

- Forensic Pathologist’s report;
- Toxicology report;
- Coronial brief (this includes witness statements and other important relevant information resulting from the investigation); and,
- Coroner’s finding/determination

Who can apply for documents?

Anyone can apply to the Court for coronial documents for any matter. Every application goes before the coroner for consideration prior to releasing the coronial documents. The most common applicants are family members and friends, medical/other healthcare professionals, and legal practitioners. A coroner may also release documents to:

- A statutory body for a statutory function;
- A member of the police force for law enforcement;
- Researchers, for research approved by an ethics committee; and/or,
- Anyone who can satisfy the coroner that it is in the public interest.

How do I apply for coronial documents?

To apply for coronial documents, parties must complete a Form 3 – Application to access to coronial records. There are 3 separate forms depending on who is making the application and whether the matter is for inquest.

The Form/s are available on the Court’s website here. The form must be completed in full and returned by email or post: E: Coroners.Hbt@magistratescourt.tas.gov.au P: 27 Liverpool Street Hobart Tas 7000 .The Court will contact you in writing once the coroner has reviewed the application and provided their response.

What form do I fill out?

Applying to Access Coronial Records (Section 58C) - Senior Next of Kin only

If you are the [senior next of kin](#) as defined by the Coroners Act 1995 of a deceased person, you may apply to access coronial records under section 58C of the *Coroners Act 1995*. The application must be made by completing the form [here](#) and emailing it to Coroners.Hbt@magistratescourt.tas.gov.au. Please note any application not made using the correct form or the correct email will not be considered.

Please also note that the Coroner's Office is not able to provide legal advice or counselling support to applicants seeking coronial records, and the application is to be submitted via the provided email only. Due to resourcing constraints, the Coroner's Office does not provide any telephone advice to applicants in this category. Applicants should seek their own legal or other advice regarding completing the application correctly.

Applicants are entitled to submit their application without seeking legal advice. However please be advised that any application that is incomplete or unclear is likely to result in the coroner being unable to make an order under the section. Therefore, the applicant must ensure a clear and detailed application using the correct form is completed and submitted by using the above email.

The Coroners Court has produced information sheets for senior next of kin applying for coronial records under this section, and there is further information contained on our website. Our information sheets emphasise the likely confronting or distressing material that the applicant may receive as a result of their application.

Please refer to our [Information Guide in relation to Autopsy Photos and Post Mortem Reports](#).

The application form also warns applicants of the potential trauma and risks of receiving and viewing the material. For this reason, applicants should consider very carefully which records they are seeking, any support and assistance they may require when viewing the material, and the onus is upon the applicant to ensure their own safety and wellbeing.

Application to Access Coronial Records (Inquest Process)

If the matter is proceeding to inquest and you are the senior next of kin or an interested person you may apply to receive any statements or affidavits that the coroner intends to consider under section 52 of the Coroners Act 1995. The application must be made by completing the form [here](#). An interested person is a person who has been found by the coroner to have a sufficient interest in the inquest.

Application to Access Coronial Records (For all other matters)

If you are applying for access to coronial records and are not the senior next of kin and nor, are you seeking pre inquest disclosure you may apply to access coronial records under rule 26 of the Coroner Rules 2006. The application must be made by completing the form [here](#). This form is generally for all other persons such as a statutory body for a statutory function, media, a member of the police force for law enforcement; researchers, for research approved by an ethics committee; and/or anyone who can satisfy the coroner that it is in the public interest.

All forms listed above are available on the Coronial Division website, either PDF or word version [here](#).

If you are unsure which form to complete please contact our office on 616 54975 and we can provide some guidance.

Can my application be refused?

Yes. A coroner may refuse an application, for example if a criminal prosecution is in progress or if the person who has applied has insufficient interest in the matter.

How long will it take to receive the documents?

Every coronial matter is different, and so is the application received. The time may vary depending on a few things such as (but not limited to);

- How complex the matter is;
- If the documents are available;
- The coroner's availability/workload;
- If the 'Senior Next of Kin' needs to be contacted prior to release; and/or
- Any applicable legislative provisions and/or
- In some cases, a Coroner may be of the view that it is not appropriate/in the public interest to release the documents until the conclusion of the proceedings

Additionally, the Court generally releases documentation via email or SharePoint.

Are there any fees?

You may have to pay for copies of documents. The Court may waive or reduce these charges if it is appropriate. The senior next of kin is not liable for fees.