This is a flow chart of the most common way in which a coronial matter proceeds following a recent death.

A death occurs.

Is the death reportable? If yes, the coroner is notified.

The deceased person is identified.

Post mortem examinations are conducted and a post mortem report is always prepared.

Investigation:
- witnesses interviewed
- statements taken
- reports written
- evidence / documents gathered.

Coroner decides whether to hold an inquest (in some cases an inquest is mandatory).

If the examination results in a finding of death by natural causes, the coroner notifies the family by letter that it is a natural death. If this occurs, the investigation concludes and the coroner has no further jurisdiction.

If the death is not reportable, a medical practitioner will issue a Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD).

No inquest to be held.

Coroner makes ‘findings without inquest’, which may include comments and recommendations. These may be published online.

Inquest:
- witnesses summonsed
- counsel assisting appointed
- case management conferences held
- issues / scope defined
- inquest held in court.

Coroner makes ‘findings with inquest’, which may include comments and recommendations. These are always published online.