

Inquest: New Rights for Bereaved Families

The Inquest Jurisdiction is likely to be amended considerably as a result of the Coroners and Death Certification Bill which is due to be published in the next Parliamentary Session.

However, ahead of this, the Ministry of Justice have announced that from 17 July a new Statutory Duty will be placed on Organisations to respond to Coroners' Reports on action that should be taken to prevent future deaths. It is intended that this will assist in preventing avoidable deaths and is a response to views expressed by bereaved families.

From 17 July a new Statutory Duty will:

- Require Organisations receiving Reports from Coroners to respond within 56 days

- Require Coroners to share Reports and responses with "interested persons" at the Inquest. This will include bereaved families
- Reports and responses will be centrally collated to identify trends and arrange for lessons learnt to be shared widely.

Another change to the Coroners' rules will require Coroners to notify Local Safeguarding Children Boards of the death of any child and to supply information to the LSCBs.

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Readers are advised to take specific advice before acting in reliance on the matters set out in this briefing.

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