

Form 2  
Version 8  
QUEENSLAND  
CORONERS ACT 2003  
(Sections 11AA, 19, 23, and 25)  
AUTOPSY ORDER

To:

(print name of doctor – doctor must be a doctor approved by the State Coroner to conduct the particular type of autopsy being ordered – see section 14(3) of the Coroners Act 2003)

or

Doctor in charge at Forensic and Scientific Services

**In respect of the circumstances surrounding the death of:**

**[FullName]** (print name of deceased person if known)

(if name unknown or not identified, enter gender and QPS reference. Approx age and where found are also helpful)

**Note:** the body does **not** need to have been identified to order an autopsy. The autopsy may yield information that is critical for the identification process and is only obtainable from an examination of the body.

I,  State Coroner  Coroner  
 Deputy State Coroner  Registrar

1. **have considered:**

- that in some cases a deceased person's family may be distressed by the making of an order for internal examination because of, for example, cultural traditions or spiritual beliefs; **and**
- that no concerns have been raised by a family member or person with a sufficient interest; **or**
- the following specific concerns raised by a family member or person with a sufficient interest:

(print details including identity and relationship of person to deceased (if applicable) of the person raising the concerns and the concerns raised)

- it has not been practicable to consider the above matters for the reasons detailed below: **and/or**
- notwithstanding the concerns raised I intend to order an internal examination for the reasons detailed below:  
reasons:

2. **request a preliminary investigation/ examination:**

- to decide whether the pathologist or other doctor can form an opinion as to probable cause of death and issue a Cause of Death Certificate (Form 9 Births Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003), or a Coronial Certificate (Form 30A/B Births Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003). The preliminary examination may include considering information about the death (e.g. Form 1, medical records, consulting treating doctors) and external examination of the body including CT scans or other X-rays and the taking and testing of samples. If there are no concerns, the pathologist should issue the Form 9 or Form 30A/B and copy it to the coroner.

**Notes:** If a Form 9 or Form 30A/B is issued following the preliminary investigation/examination please provide a preliminary investigation/examination report as soon as practicable.  
If a Form 9 or Form 30A/B cannot be issued following the preliminary investigation/examination proceed with the following type of autopsy, testing and investigation as an autopsy will be necessary for the investigation of the death. The preliminary examination findings can be incorporated in the autopsy report.

3. Order the following type of autopsy, testing and investigation: (tick, circle, delete or specify as necessary).

- examination of the cremated remains (i.e. human remains cremated at a crematorium)
- external examination of the body
- external and partial internal examination of the body, namely: abdomen / chest / head / other: ..... (specify)
- External/or and internal examination of the body to the extent necessary, as determined by the forensic pathologist allocated the autopsy to determine the COD
- external and full internal examination of the body

**Note about tests in partial and full internal examinations:** under section 23(3), an order for autopsy authorises the pathologist, at his/her discretion, to take samples for histology, toxicology or any other test that is consistent with the type of autopsy ordered, if considered necessary to investigate the death and in addition to any procedures under section 11AA. This is sufficient in most cases. However, in selected cases, the coroner may wish to order specific samples, tests or investigations:

4.  order the following (e.g. additional procedures, limitations, investigations, or consultation, including any specific testing or examinations that the coroner may require):

.....  
.....

5.  give permission to the doctor performing the examination, a police officer, counsellor and/or coronial nurse from the Coronial Counselling Service to inform family members of the examination findings.

6.  order, with the consent of the doctor performing the examination, that the body be released to the collecting government undertaker, but **only** to return the body to the originating mortuary: ..... (specify)

and as soon as practicable after completing the autopsy examination, prepare an autopsy report and give the report to me.

- Notes:**
1. **Toxicology:** blood and urine samples, if obtainable, are required in most cases in which toxicology is relevant. In selected cases, coroners and doctors may need to consider the value of other samples, e.g. vitreous, hair, lung.
  2. **Form 3, "Notice to Coroner after Autopsy":** the pathologist or other doctor must provide the Form 3 to the coroner as soon as practicable after completing the macroscopic autopsy.
  3. **Prescribed tissues:** these consist of whole organs, identifiable body parts and foetuses. Their retention requires noting on the Form 3 and special procedures under Section 24 of the Coroners Act 2003.

Date: [CreationDate]  
Name of person making the order: [CoronerName]  
Telephone number of person making the order: .....  
Signature of person making the order: .....