



# Inquest Procedure

JP is notified of a body or body part requiring an inquest.  
*Law enforcement may conduct a concurrent investigation.*

Inquest is conducted immediately or as soon as practicable where death occurred or at other reasonable place as determined by JP.

JP conducts death investigation. JP may act on information received from any credible person or on facts within the judge's personal knowledge.

If necessary, JP may direct the removal of the body or body part from the scene of death and may remove part of the physical surroundings of the body.

Provide scene evidence to law enforcement (*if applicable*).

Notify next of kin and coordinate disposition of body with next of kin or county judge for pauper burial. *Next of kin list in Health and Safety Code § 711.002.*

Complete death certificate within 10 days, and complete any additional reporting. *Note, if waiting on further information, may mark death certificate as pending.*



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## **Inquest Investigation Resources:**

- autopsy, external exam, or other medical examiner testing
- toxicology or other testing
- scene investigation *including taking photos or seizing physical evidence like medications*
- medical records (*see TJCTC Letter Requesting Medical Records*)
- interview witnesses, family, or medical professionals

## **Notes:**

See Inquest Deskbook at <https://www.tjctc.org/tjctc-resources/deskbooks.html> for more information and details.