



Formal Inquest Procedure

Justice of the Peace determines that circumstances warrant a hearing, or a district attorney or criminal district attorney who serves the county in which the body or body part was found requests one.

Inquest Hearing

With Jury

Without Jury

In Public

In Private

In Public

In Private

A person charged with causing the death has a right to be present and may have an attorney present to examine witnesses and produce evidence.

Witnesses are sworn in and examined only by the judge, any person charged, and an attorney for the person charged or the state.

Determine cause of death.

Sign the death certificate.