

## Objection to Post Mortem

Family members wishing to lodge an objection to the post mortem examination should do so immediately by informing the police officer in charge, who will then notify the Coroner.

If the death occurs within the Sydney metropolitan area, next of kin can also contact the Department of Forensic Medicine on 02 8584 7800 (available 24hrs). Where the death has occurred outside the Sydney metropolitan area, next of kin can contact the Coroner at the local court where the death has been reported (during business hours).

Once an objection is lodged, the matter does not proceed until the Coroner has reviewed all of the available information. CISP will contact the senior next of kin or their representative to explain the steps involved, and will keep the nominated person informed throughout this process until it is resolved.

## Retention of an Organ at Post Mortem Examination

Sometimes it will be necessary for a whole organ(s) to be retained to allow for a more thorough forensic examination. If this is required the senior next of kin or their representative will be contacted by CISP (usually the same day of the post mortem procedure) and provided with all available information and options.

## Office of the NSW State Coroner and State Coroner's Court

44-46 Parramatta Rd, Glebe NSW 2037  
[www.coroners.lawlink.nsw.gov.au](http://www.coroners.lawlink.nsw.gov.au)

## Contacting CISP

Office hours: 9am-4pm (Mon-Fri)  
ph: (02) 8584 7777  
fax: (02) 9660 7594  
[local\\_court\\_glebe@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:local_court_glebe@agd.nsw.gov.au) (Attention: CISP)



## Counselling Services

**Sydney**  
Department of Forensic Medicine (Glebe)  
(02) 8584 7800

**Newcastle**  
Department of Forensic Medicine  
(02) 4922 3700

Outside these areas you may be able to obtain counselling through, for example, your local Community Health Centre, Hospital, Private Practitioners or GP.

# CORONIAL INFORMATION AND SUPPORT PROGRAM (CISP)



**Attorney General  
& Justice**

The **Coronial Information and Support Program (CISP)** is based at the NSW State Coroner's Office, Glebe. We have a complement of three staff. The team is made up of experienced social workers and psychologists who work exclusively with coronial matters. CISP provide services for the whole of New South Wales.

The Coronial Information and Support Program is designed to provide information and support to families where a death has been reported to the Coroner.

CISP however, is not a counselling unit. Contact details for counselling services are provided on the back of this brochure.

**Our aims:**

To provide information and support to persons affected by deaths reported to the Coroner in New South Wales.

To facilitate communication between the Coroner and persons who have contact with the coronial jurisdiction.

**Our service:**

To provide information and guidance to next of kin where there is an objection to the post mortem examination. CISP can explain the legal process but cannot offer legal advice. (See over)

To provide information and guidance to next of kin where a whole organ(s) is retained at the post mortem examination. (See over)

To assist next of kin and those who have contact with the coronial jurisdiction to understand the role and legal powers of the Coroner.

To assist next of kin and those who have contact with the coronial jurisdiction to understand coronial processes (for example, how information is gathered for the Coroner, how to access the post mortem report, how decisions are made regarding the holding or dispensing of inquests).

With the permission of the Coroner, to provide support to next of kin if sensitive information, for example, photographs, forensic reports, videos, CCTV footage are being viewed.

To provide general information about the inquest process. This can include court familiarisation and practical information about attending court (for example, who's who, court protocols and procedures, dealing with the media) and emotional support (for example, ensuring appropriate breaks and provision of private space for you during the giving or hearing of distressing evidence). CISP however cannot provide legal advice.

To provide specific support and preparation to family and friends if they are to appear as a witness at a coronial inquest.

To link family and friends to other appropriate services as needed.

To provide education around the role of the Coroner and the provisions of the Coroner's Act to various professional and community groups having contact with, or an interest in, the coronial system.

