
Accessing coronial documents

- Assess for members of the public
- Who can request coronial information?
- How do I request the information?
- Which documents should I request?
- Will all information be released to me?
- Who do I contact if I have further enquiries?

Access for members of the public

This information will help you request information held on coronial case files.

Who can request coronial information?

Any member of the **public** is entitled to request findings and witness statements or depositions, that are held on a coronial case file.

Immediate family of the deceased can also request information such as medical reports, patient notes, the post-mortem report, toxicology report, suicide notes, and photos. When you request this information, please complete Form IRF-4 (PDF, 388KB), confirming your identity and relationship to the deceased. Please also make sure that you attach the required documents to the form before mailing or emailing it to us.

If you are not an immediate family member of the deceased and you would like to request the medical information held on the file, you need to complete Form IRF-3 (PDF, 317KB). This form must be signed by an immediate family member or a representative of the deceased, authorising you to access this information.

[Back to top](#)

How do I request the information?

Active cases - where the Coroner is still investigating

If a coronial case is still active, you should contact the Coronial Services

Office responsible for the case, to request the information you would like access to. If you are unsure whether the case is active, or which office is responsible, please email coronial.information@justice.govt.nz, or phone 04 918 8332, for more information.

Closed cases - deaths that occurred more than 50 years ago

Coronial case files that are older than 50 years are held at Archives New Zealand. Should you wish to access any of these files, you can visit the Archives New Zealand Archway webpage at www.archway.archives.govt.nz, where you are able to search and request the information you need. Alternatively you can contact Archives New Zealand at research.archives@dia.govt.nz, or 04 499 5595.

Closed cases - deaths that occurred less than 50 years ago

If a Coroner has completed their investigation and the case has been closed, you should complete Form IRF-2 (PDF, 359KB) to request the information you would like to access. Make sure that you complete all fields before emailing or posting the form to us:

Email: coronial.information@justice.govt.nz

Post: The Information Advisor
Business Services Unit
Specialist Courts
DX Box SX 10044
District Court, Level 5
Wellington, 6010

[Back to top](#)