

# How to access individual coronial records

Once a coroner has completed a case, anyone can ask for copies of the coronial record. The coroner's finding will always be released, but other information in the file may not be released.

## Types of documents you can ask for

The documents on a coronial file can include:

- the coroner's findings
- witness statements
- expert reports
- the post mortem report
- a toxicology report  
(this contains the results of any toxicology tests).

The Coroners Act 2006, the Official Information Act 1982 and the Chief Coroner control the release of copies of coronial documents. Because these documents contain sensitive and personal information, the Ministry of Justice may not be able to release all the information to you. If that is the case we will tell you what information we have withheld and why.

## Where to send your request

### IF THE CORONER HAS FINISHED THEIR INVESTIGATION

Fill out the 'Request for access to individual coronial records' form, available on our website. You can email it to us at [coronial.information@justice.govt.nz](mailto:coronial.information@justice.govt.nz), or print it off and post it to:

Operations Manager  
Coronial Services of New Zealand  
DX Box SX10044  
Wellington

### INFORMATION ABOUT CURRENT CASES

If the case is still open, contact the local Coronial Services office for information about the case's progress. If you are unsure whether the case is closed, contact the Operations Manager.

## How long will it take?

We aim to respond to your request as soon as possible and by no later than 20 working days after we receive it. If we can't meet this timeframe, we will let you know as soon as we can and tell you why.

## Will it cost anything?

There may be some fees to copy documents. We will discuss any fees with you first.

## Coronial records for deaths before 1 July 2007

Please be aware that records created before 1 July 2007 may not contain as much information as more recent records.

As such, a copy of the coroner's finding might not give the answers you were after, and you may need to ask for copies of other documents or the whole file.

## When coronial records are over 50 years old

Coronial records over 50 years old are held at Archives New Zealand. To access these records, contact the Remote Reference Service:

Archives New Zealand, Head Office  
10 Mulgrave Street | Thorndon | Wellington  
PO Box 12050 | Thorndon | Wellington 6011  
[research.archives@dia.govt.nz](mailto:research.archives@dia.govt.nz)  
T 04 499 5595 | F 04 495 6210  
[archives.govt.nz](http://archives.govt.nz)

## Coroner's findings

All findings are publicly available. If the finding is not available at the Findings of Public Interest page on our website, you can ask the Operations Manager for a copy.