



# Coroners Act (Northern Ireland) 1959

## 1959 CHAPTER 15

### <sup>F1</sup>18 **Jury must be summoned in certain cases.**

- (1) If it appears to the coroner, either before he proceeds to hold an inquest or in the course of an inquest begun without a jury, that there is reason to suspect that—

*Para. (a) rep. by 1980 NI 6*

- (b) the death occurred in prison; or
- (c) the death was caused by an accident, poisoning or disease notice of which is required, under or in pursuance of any enactment, to be given to a government department, or to any inspector or other officer of a government department [<sup>F2</sup> or to an inspector appointed under Article 21 of the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 ]; or

*Para. (d) rep. by 1980 NI 6*

- (e) the death occurred in circumstances the continuance or possible recurrence of which is prejudicial to the health or safety of the public or any section of the public;

he shall instruct the<sup>F3</sup> Juries Officer to summon a sufficient number of persons in accordance with the Juries (Northern Ireland) Order 1996] to attend and be sworn as jurors upon such inquest at the time and place specified by the coroner.

- (2) If in any case other than those referred to in sub-section (1) it appears to the coroner, either before or in the course of an inquest begun without a jury, that it is desirable to summon a jury, he may proceed to cause a jury to be summoned in accordance with the said sub-section.

[<sup>F4</sup>(3) In subsection (1) the reference to the Juries Officer is a reference to the Juries Officer for the division which includes the place specified by the coroner under that subsection; and “Juries Officer” and “division” have the same meanings as in the Juries (Northern Ireland) Order 1996.]

[<sup>F5</sup>(4) This section and section 39(3) of the Prison Act (Northern Ireland) 1953 (prison officers etc not to be jurors) shall apply where a death occurs on service custody premises within the meaning of section 300 of the Armed Forces Act 2006 as they apply where a death occurs in prison. ]

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**Changes to legislation:** Coroners Act (Northern Ireland) 1959, Section 18 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 20 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

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- F1** 1969 c.28 (NI)
- F2** 1978 NI 9
- F3** 1996 NI 6
- F4** S. 18(3) substituted (31.10.2016) by [Justice Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 9\)](#), s. 106(2), **Sch. 1 para. 50(1)** (with [Sch. 8 para. 1](#)); S.R. 2016/387, art. 2(k) (with art. 3)
- F5** S. 18(4) inserted (28.3.2009 for certain purposes otherwise 31.10.2009) by [Armed Forces Act 2006 \(c. 52\)](#), ss. 378(1), 383(2), **Sch.16 para. 44**; S.I. 2009/812, **art. 3(a)(b)** (with transitional provisions in S.I. 2009/1059); S.I. 2009/1167, **art. 4**

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**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

- C1** S. 18(4) modified (24.4.2009 for certain purposes otherwise 31.10.2009) by [Armed Forces Act 2006 \(Transitional Provisions etc\) Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1059\)](#), arts. 1(3), 205, **Sch. 1 para. 7**

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**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:**

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 16A-16C inserted by [2023 c. 41 s. 44\(1\)](#)