



Coroners and Justice Act 2009

2009 CHAPTER 25

PART 1

CORONERS ETC

CHAPTER 1

INVESTIGATIONS INTO DEATHS

Duty to investigate

1 Duty to investigate certain deaths

- (1) A senior coroner who is made aware that the body of a deceased person is within that coroner's area must as soon as practicable conduct an investigation into the person's death if subsection (2) applies.
- (2) This subsection applies if the coroner has reason to suspect that—
 - (a) the deceased died a violent or unnatural death,
 - (b) the cause of death is unknown, or
 - (c) the deceased died while in custody or otherwise in state detention.
- (3) Subsection (1) is subject to sections 2 to 4.
- (4) A senior coroner who has reason to believe that—
 - (a) a death has occurred in or near the coroner's area,
 - (b) the circumstances of the death are such that there should be an investigation into it, and
 - (c) the duty to conduct an investigation into the death under subsection (1) does not arise because of the destruction, loss or absence of the body,may report the matter to the Chief Coroner.

Changes to legislation: Coroners and Justice Act 2009, Section 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 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

(5) On receiving a report under subsection (4) the Chief Coroner may direct a senior coroner (who does not have to be the one who made the report) to conduct an investigation into the death.

(6) The coroner to whom a direction is given under subsection (5) must conduct an investigation into the death as soon as practicable.

This is subject to section 3.

(7) A senior coroner may make whatever enquiries seem necessary in order to decide—

(a) whether the duty under subsection (1) arises;

(b) whether the power under subsection (4) arises.

(8) This Chapter is subject to Schedule 10.

Commencement Information

II S. 1 in force at 25.7.2013 by S.I. 2013/1869, art. 2(a)

Changes to legislation:

Coroners and Justice Act 2009, Section 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 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.

[View outstanding changes](#)

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. 11A and cross-heading inserted by [2023 c. 41 Sch. 11 para. 1\(1\)](#)
- Sch. 1A inserted by [2023 c. 41 Sch. 11 para. 1\(2\)](#)