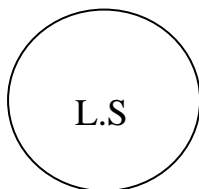


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CORONERS AND PRESUMPTION OF DEATH ORDINANCE 2015

CORONERS (INQUESTS) (AMENDMENT) RULES 2025

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 21 of the Coroners and Presumption of Death Ordinance 2015, the Chief Coroner makes the following rules.

Citation and Commencement

1. These Rules may be cited as the Coroners (Inquests) (Amendment) Rules 2025, and come into force on 6 October 2025.

Amendment of the Coroners (Inquests) Rules 2015

2. (1) The Coroners (Inquests) Rules 2015 are amended as follows.

(2) After rule 7(2) insert—

“(3) If an inquest in writing is to be held, the Coroner must make details of the week in which the inquest will be held publicly available before the inquest commences.”.

(3) In rule 9(1), after “unless” insert “rule 9A or”.

(4) After rule 9 insert—

“ Inquests to be conducted at a hearing or in writing

9A. (1) Where an inquest into a death is to be held, the inquest is to be held—

- (a) at a hearing, or
- (b) if the Chief Coroner, or deputy Chief Coroner, decides that a hearing is unnecessary, in writing.

(2) The Chief Coroner, or deputy Chief Coroner is not to decide that a hearing is unnecessary unless—

- (a) the Coroner has invited representations from each interested person known to the coroner,
- (b) no interested person has represented on reasonable grounds that a hearing should take place,
- (c) it appears to the Coroner that there is no real prospect of disagreement among interested persons as to the determinations or findings that the inquest could or should make, and
- (d) it appears to the Coroner that no public interest would be served by a hearing.

(3) The Chief Coroner may issue guidance as to the circumstances where an inquest in writing would be suitable and the considerations to be applied before and following holding such an inquest.”.

(5) In rule 20(4), after “only” insert “or a summary”.

(6) After rule 20 insert—

“Pre-recorded video and audio evidence

20A. (1) A Coroner may direct the admission in evidence of a pre-recorded video or audio statement of a witness obtained by a police officer in accordance with any guidance issued for the purposes of achieving the best evidence of that witness.

(2) A direction pursuant to paragraph (1) may be made in conjunction with a direction pursuant to rule 14 or 15.

(3) A direction may not be given under paragraph (1) unless the Coroner determines that—

- (a) the witness was under 18 years of age at the time of making the statement, or
- (b) giving evidence by pre-recorded video or audio statement would be likely to improve the quality of the evidence given by the witness or allow the inquest to proceed more expediently.

(4) In making a determination pursuant to sub-paragraph (3)(b), the Coroner must consider all the circumstances of the case, including in particular—

- (a) any views expressed by the witness or an interested person,
- (b) the age or any disability of the witness, and
- (c) whether it would be in the interests of justice or national security to allow evidence to be given by pre-recorded statement.

- (5) A direction may be given under paragraph (1)—
- (a) on the application of the witness or, in the case of a child witness, the parent or legal guardian of that witness,
 - (b) on an application of an interested person, or
 - (c) on the Coroner’s own initiative.”.

Made this 30th day of September 2025

Duncan Cooke
Chief Coroner

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Rules)

These Rules amend the Coroners (Inquests) Rules 2015. They provide that an inquest may be conducted in hearing or in writing, and provide the circumstances in which the Chief Coroner, or deputy Chief Coroner may decide that an inquest may be conducted in writing. These Rules also provide the circumstances in which the Coroner may direct the admission in evidence of pre-recorded video or audio evidence.