CORONER - INFORMATION FOR FAMILY

What is a Coroner?

➢ A Coroner is the person that must be told when a person dies all of a sudden or from an accident or injury.
- This is a hard time for your family.
- The Coroner and the police are sorry that you are sad and grieving.
- This is important information about what is happening with the person that has passed.
- The police are here to talk with you about the person that passed.

➢ The Coroner was told about this person passing so that the Coroner can find out the story about why this person passed away.

What will the Coroner do?

➢ The Coroner might ask the doctor from the mortuary to look at the body of the person on the outside and at times on the inside too.
- This is called an autopsy.
- This is to find out why the person passed away.
- If you don't want the doctor to look inside the body tell the police officer.
- If the Coroner still wants the doctor to look inside, the Coroner will wait for two days.
- The family can ask a lawyer for help in the two days to go to the Supreme Court to ask the Judge to decide about the doctor looking inside the body.

➢ The person that passed may have been in jail, or government care like kids in welfare or hospital for mental health or other sickness.
- The Coroner will also try to find out about the care and treatment that was given to the person that passed away.

Why are the Police helping the Coroner?

➢ The police will help the Coroner investigate.
- The police will ask the family to say who the person is and how long they have known the person that passed.
- The family can tell the police if there is another name that they want the person that passed to be called.
- The police can also look at different ways to tell who a person is from:
  - finger prints or
  - blood or
  - teeth

- This investigation might take a long time.
- The police might speak to people and take statements.
- They might need to keep some things that belong to the person that passed:
  - A wallet
  - Phone
  - Clothes
  - Glasses
- The police will keep these things till the investigation is finished.
- The family will get these things back it will take a long time.

➢ The Coroner will look after the person that passed until -
- The person has a name.
- The time and place where the person passed is confirmed.
- What caused the person to pass away is known.
- The information that will be written on the death certificate.

Who can the Coroner and police talk to about the person that passed?

➢ The Coroner needs to know the right senior next of kin.
- The Coroner knows that there are avoidance relationships for a person that passed.
- The Coroner wants the family to tell the police who is non-avoidant and can speak for the person that passed:
  - Brothers/sisters
  - Sons/daughters
  - Cousins
  - Grandkids
  - Nieces/nephews

Who can you talk to at the Coroner's Office?

➢ There is a Grief Counsellor at the Coroner's office she will help the family to see the person that passed.
- The family can see the person if the person's face is the same.
- The doctor at the mortuary tells the Grief Counsellor if the person looks very different and it will make the family very sad.
- After 3 weeks the hospital does not let the family see the person.
- The Grief Counsellor will talk to the family and tell them when the Coroner is ready to give the body of the person back to the family for the burial ceremony.
- At times there may be trouble in the family about where to take the person for the burial.
- Tell the Grief Counsellor, she can talk to the mediators to help the family to end the trouble.

What will happen to the body of our loved one?

- If the Coroner brings the body of the person to the big hospital in town, the Coroner will return the person home.
- If the person passed away at the big hospital after they went there for treatment, the big hospital will take the person home.
- The family can talk to the funeral people in the big town and arrange to pay for a coffin.