

Te Mate Ohorere: Te Hunga Ka Whai Wāhi Mai Sudden Death: The People Involved

Key People(s)	What do they do?	How do they carry out their role?	What to ask or tell them?
Whānau Family	Choose a lead whānau member to - Be a first point of contact for professionals involved - Ask for clear processes - Ask questions for the whānau - Communicate back to whānau	- Supportive to whānau pani - Readily available and active - Easily contactable - Clear communications - Identify key whānau members for different tasks	
Pirihimana Police www.police.govt.nz	- A go between that acts on behalf of the coroner - There will be an investigating officer	- Investigates circumstances around the death. - Communicates with whānau to ensure they are kept informed	Let police know who the key whānau contact is. Ask - What happens now? - Who is the key police contact? - Who can go with the body?
Tākuta Doctor	Provides sign off for the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD) needed before burial/cremation	Certifying cause of death. If unable to certify, they refer to a police officer or coroner	- Had they been unwell recently? - Had they been to the doctor recently?
Kaitirotiro Tūpāpaku Coroner Phone the National Initial Investigation Office (NIIO) on 0800 266 800 (day or night) for info about processes on a recent death Email NIIO@justice.govt.nz	- Confirms identity of deceased - Assesses information/evidence from police - Clarifies and confirms cause of death (e.g. hereditary, injury, unexpected, no obvious cause, suicide, toxicology) - Decides whether a post-mortem is needed	- Works with police, whānau and pathologist - Decides whether to have an inquiry - Opens an inquiry - Orders a post-mortem (autopsy) - Directs release of body	You will mostly talk to the coroner on the phone as they may not be based in your area - What happens with tissue samples? - What is the process for an autopsy? - If I want samples returned what is the process?
Kaiwhakatewhatewha Tūpāpaku Pathologist	Performs the post-mortem (autopsy) at designated hospital (a regional service not available in every town) to figure out the medical cause of death Forensic pathologists deal with complex or suspicious circumstances	By examining the deceased to determine cause of death and provide a report to the coroner. They may take tissue samples.	You can ask for a copy of the pathologist's report. Some exceptions apply e.g. forms that are part of a police investigation.

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