

CHAPTER 390

CORONER; MORGUE; INVESTIGATION OF DEATH

390.11 Investigations and inquests.
 390.23 Records of violent or mysterious death.

390.32 Authority to conduct proceedings.

390.11 INVESTIGATIONS AND INQUESTS.

Subdivision 1. **Deaths requiring inquests and investigations.** Except as provided in subdivision 1a, the coroner shall investigate and may conduct inquests in all human deaths of the following types:

(1) violent deaths, whether apparently homicidal, suicidal, or accidental, including but not limited to deaths due to thermal, chemical, electrical, or radiational injury, and deaths due to criminal abortion, whether apparently self induced or not;

(2) deaths under unusual or mysterious circumstances;

(3) deaths of persons whose bodies are to be cremated, dissected, buried at sea, or otherwise disposed of so that the bodies will later be unavailable for examination; and

(4) deaths of inmates of public institutions who are not hospitalized for organic disease and whose deaths are not of any type referred to in clause (1) or (2).

Subd. 1a. **Commissioner of corrections; investigation of deaths.** The commissioner of corrections may require that all department of corrections incarcerated deaths be reviewed by an independent, contracted, board-certified forensic pathologist.

[For text of subds 2 to 12, see M.S.2000]

History: 2001 c 210 s 18,19

390.23 RECORDS OF VIOLENT OR MYSTERIOUS DEATH.

No person, other than the county coroner, medical examiner, or judge exercising probate jurisdiction, shall issue a record of death in cases of violent or mysterious deaths, including suspected homicides, occurring in the county.

History: 1Sp2001 c 9 art 15 s 32

390.32 AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT PROCEEDINGS.

[For text of subds 1 to 8, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 9. **Inquest procedure.** If the county attorney elects to conduct an inquest, the county attorney shall promptly notify the judge of the need for an inquest and make all arrangements for it. At the inquest, the judge shall preside and the county attorney shall conduct the inquest on behalf of the state. Upon conclusion of the inquest, the judge shall find the cause of death and sign and file a death record. The judge, upon application of the county attorney, may issue subpoenas for witnesses in the manner provided by section 390.15 and the judge shall administer the oath to them in the manner provided by section 390.16.

Subd. 10. **No inquest conducted.** If the county attorney elects not to conduct an inquest, the county attorney shall inform the medical examiner who shall find the cause of death and sign and file a death record.

Subd. 11. **Commissioner of corrections; investigation of deaths.** The commissioner of corrections may require that all department-of-corrections-incarcerated deaths be reviewed by an independent, contracted, board-certified forensic pathologist.

History: 2001 c 210 s 20; 1Sp2001 c 9 art 15 s 32