



ANALYSIS

Title

1. Short Title

2. Deaths that must be reported

3. Procedure where person charged with offence or some other inquiry to be held

4. Publication of details of self-inflicted deaths

1996, No. 117

An Act to amend the Coroners Act 1988

[2 September 1996]

BE IT ENACTED by the Parliament of New Zealand as follows:

1. Short Title—This Act may be cited as the Coroners Amendment Act 1996, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Coroners Act 1988 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act).

2. Deaths that must be reported—Section 4 (1) (b) of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting the words “certificate under section 25 of the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1951”, and substituting the words “doctor’s certificate (within the meaning of section 2 of the Births, Deaths, and Marriages Registration Act 1995)”.

3. Procedure where person charged with offence or some other inquiry to be held—Section 28 (3) of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting the expression “subsection (4)”, and substituting the expression “subsection (5)”.

4. Publication of details of self-inflicted deaths—(1) The principal Act is hereby amended by repealing section 29 (as

amended by section 56 (1) of the Defamation Act 1992), and substituting the following section:

“29. (1) In this section,—

“‘Make public’ means publish by means of—

“(a) Broadcasting (within the meaning of the Broadcasting Act 1989); or

“(b) A newspaper (within the meaning of the Defamation Act 1992); or

“(c) A book, journal, magazine, newsletter, or other similar document; or

“(d) A sound or visual recording;

“‘Particular’, in relation to any death, means detail relating to the manner in which the death occurred, to the circumstances of the death, or to an inquest into the death.

“(2) If—

“(a) There is reasonable cause to believe that a death that occurred in New Zealand after the commencement of this Act was self-inflicted; and

“(b) No inquest into it has been completed,—
without the authority of a coroner no person shall make public any particular relating to the manner in which it occurred.

“(3) Where any coroner has found a death to be self-inflicted,—

“(a) Subject to paragraph (b) of this subsection, without the authority of a coroner no person shall make public any particular of the death other than—

“(i) The name, address, and occupation of the person concerned; and

“(ii) The fact that the coroner has found the death to be self-inflicted; but

“(b) Nothing in paragraph (a) of this subsection—

“(i) Prevents the Police Complaints Authority from publishing under section 34 (1) (b) of the Police Complaints Authority Act 1988 a report that includes any particular of the death; or

“(ii) Prevents the Commissioner of Police from publishing under section 34 (2) of that Act an opinion or recommendation under section 27 or 28 of that Act, or any part of any such opinion or recommendation, that includes any particular of the death; or

“(iii) Prevents any person from making public a particular of the death contained in any such report, opinion, recommendation, or part of an

opinion or recommendation, published under that Act,—

without the authority of a coroner.”

(2) The Defamation Act 1992 is hereby consequentially amended by repealing so much of the Second Schedule as relates to the principal Act.

This Act is administered in the Ministry of Justice.
