

CYPRUS

CORONERS

CHAPTER 153 OF THE LAWS

1959 EDITION

PRINTED BY

C. F. ROWORTH LIMITED, 54, GRAFTON WAY, LONDON, W.1.

[Appointed by the Government of Cyprus the Government Printers of this Edition of Laws within, the meaning of the Evidence (Colonial Statutes) Act, 1907.]

1959

CHAPTER 153.

CORONERS.

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A LAW TO REGULATE THE APPOINTMENT, POWERS AND DUTIES OF CORONERS.

[20th May, 1953.] 23 of 53.
46 of 58.

PART I.

PRELIMINARY.

1. This Law may be cited as the Coroners Law. Short title.
2. In this Law unless the context otherwise requires— Interpreta-
tion.

“coroner” means any person empowered to hold inquests under this Law;

“jurisdiction” means the area within which a coroner is empowered to hold inquests;

“local authority” means the Mukhtar or an Aza of the village or quarter where a dead body is lying, and where in a village or quarter there is more than one Mukhtar, the Mukhtar of the community to which the deceased belonged;

“medical practitioner” means any person registered as a medical practitioner under the Medical Registration Law and any person entitled to practise medicine without registration under the provisions of subsection (2) of section 13 of the Medical Registration Law; Cap. 250.
2 of 46/58.

“President, District Court” means the President of the District Court of the district within which the inquest has been, is or shall be held.

PART II.

GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Who may
hold
inquests.

3. (1) Every district judge and magistrate may hold inquests under this Law within the local limits of his jurisdiction.

(2) The Governor may, by notice in the *Gazette*, empower any other fit person to hold inquests under this Law within any area specified in such notice.

(3) Any inquest commenced by a coroner may be continued, resumed, or reopened in the manner provided by this Law by such coroner or by his successor in office or by such other coroner, empowered to hold the inquest within the jurisdiction, as the President, District Court, may direct.

(4) Where more than one coroner is empowered to hold the inquest within the jurisdiction, the President, District Court, shall regulate the disposition and distribution of duties amongst such coroners.

When
inquests to
be held.

4. Whenever a coroner is informed that the body of a deceased person is lying within his jurisdiction and that there is reasonable cause to suspect that such person—

(a) has died either a violent or an unnatural death ; or

(b) has died a sudden death of which the cause is unknown ; or

(c) has died in circumstances the continuance or possible recurrence of which is prejudicial to the health or safety of the public or any section thereof ; or

(d) has died whilst confined in a mental hospital, or in any place or circumstances which, in the opinion of the coroner, makes the holding of an inquest necessary or desirable,

such coroner shall, subject as hereinafter in this section provided, hold an inquest on such body as soon as is practicable :

Provided that—

(i) whenever it shall appear to the coroner, either from the report of a medical practitioner rendered under section 12 or otherwise, that the death is due to natural causes, and that the body shows no appearance of death being

attributable to or of having been accelerated by violence or by any culpable or negligent conduct either on the part of the deceased or of any other person, it shall thereupon be lawful for the coroner at his discretion (except in the cases specified in section 6) to dispense with the holding of an inquest ;

- (ii) where the coroner is informed that criminal proceedings have been or are about to be instituted against any person already in custody or about to be arrested in respect of such death, the inquest shall not be commenced, or, if commenced, shall not be continued or resumed, until such proceedings have been concluded.

5. Notwithstanding any Law or custom to the contrary enacted or obtaining, whenever it shall appear to any coroner that the body of any person, who has died in circumstances requiring the holding of an inquest thereon, has been buried without being viewed or without such inquest having been held, or where such inquest, although held, has been quashed or reopened, it shall be lawful for such coroner by his warrant as in Form A set out in the First Schedule to order the exhumation of such body ; and he shall after such exhumation proceed to hold an inquest on such body and thereupon direct the reinterment thereof ; and the expenses of such exhumation and reinterment shall be paid, upon the coroner's order, out of the general revenue :

Power to
order
exhumation.

First
Schedule
Form A.

Provided that such exhumation shall not be ordered in any case where in the opinion of the coroner there is no reasonable probability of material information being obtained thereby.

6. Whenever any prisoner, or any person in police custody, shall die from any cause whatsoever, a coroner of the district in which such death has occurred shall hold an inquest and, where such death is in execution of a judgment of death, the inquest shall be held within four hours thereafter.

Inquest on
all prisoners
and on
persons in
police
custody.

7. The coroner within whose jurisdiction the body of any person, upon whose death an inquest ought to be held, is lying, shall hold the inquest, notwithstanding

Inquest to
be held by
coroner of
place where
body lying.