H.M. Senior Coroner Rutland and North Leicestershire
Miss Louise Pinder

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I am writing to you by way of introduction. I am the newly appointed Senior Coroner for Rutland and North Leicestershire. I enclose a map of my jurisdiction which I hope will assist you and your colleagues. Please note that Leicester City and South Leicestershire is a separate jurisdiction. Professor Mason is the Senior Coroner for this area.

The RNL coroner service, including the court, is based at County Hall, Glenfield. You are welcome to visit (by appointment) and if you are involved in a coroner's investigation and inquest, you are welcome to visit the court and attend another inquest to familiarise yourself with the process.

I am currently working with the ICB to introduce training to assist GP's who are required to prepare reports for the coroner and give evidence at an inquest. I will also be introducing a regular lunchtime session where you can seek general advice and ask questions about the coronial service and your interaction with it. Specific cases cannot be discussed.

As I am sure you know, on the 9th September, GPs will be required to refer all deaths either to the Coroner or the Medical Examiner. In simple terms, the death must be referred to the coroner where the cause of death is unknown or unnatural. Otherwise, the death should be referred to the ME. There is to be a clear distinction between medical and judicial certification of deaths.

You can complete the APMCCD if you can state the cause of death to the best of your knowledge and belief. The ME is there to assist you. You should not refer to the coroner for advice. Historically I have noticed that GP's have referred deaths to the coroner if they are unsure about the medical cause of death but believe it to be natural causes. After the 9th September, in cases like this, GP's should consider seeking advice from the ME and only refer to the coroner if they are still unable to identify a cause of death.

The Notification of Death Regulations 2019 sets out the circumstances in which you are under a duty to report to the coroner. In essence, you must report to the coroner if you suspect that the cause of death is unnatural, unknown, the deceased died in state detention, there is no Attending Practitioner (AP) or none available within a reasonable time or the identity of the deceased is unknown.

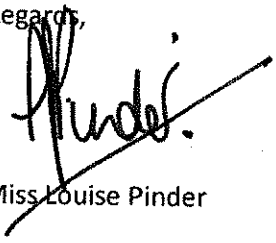
Once a referral is received the coroner will then decide whether they have a duty to investigate the death (s1 Coroners and Justice Act 2009). If there is no duty to investigate then the coroner will notify the AP, copying in the ME, by way of Form CN1A. Reasons will be given. We will also contact you (there is no prescribed form) if we decide to investigate the death.

GP's should continue to use the portal when referring deaths. You will be asked some additional questions. The referral will not be accepted and considered by the coroner unless a GP summary is attached.

I am aware the Local Medical Committee have produced helpful guidance which has been widely circulated and which I attach.

Please do not hesitate to contact the coroner's team for general advice on the above contact details.

Regards,



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