# BILL

No. 67

## An Act to amend *The Coroners Act, 1999*

(Assented to )

HIS MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows:

**Short title**

**1** This Act may be cited as *The Coroners Amendment Act, 2026*.

**SS 1999, c C-38.01 amended**

**2** *The Coroners Act, 1999* is amended in the manner set forth in this Act.

**Section 2 amended**

**3 Section 2 is amended by adding the following definitions in alphabetical order:**

**"'lock-up'** includes a temporary holding facility for individuals in the custody of:

(a) a police service as defined in *The Police Act, 1990*; or

(b) the Royal Canadian Mounted Police;

**"'peace officer'** means a peace officer as defined in *The Summary Offences Procedure Act, 1990*;

**"'Serious Incident Response Team'** means the Serious Incident Response Team as defined in *The Police Act, 1990*".

**Section 4 amended**

**4 Subsection 4(3) is amended:**

**(a) by striking out "**and**" after clause (j); and**

**(b) by adding the following after clause (j):**

"(j.1) subject to the regulations, approve forms for the purposes of this Act, including the following:

(i) a warrant mentioned in section 14 or 42;

(ii) an application for an order for the analysis of blood pursuant to subsection 13(5);

(iii) any oath or declaration of coroners that the chief coroner considers appropriate;

(iv) any other examination, report, order, summons, oath, affirmation or declaration authorized or required by this Act; and".

**Section 7 amended**

**5 Clause 7(1)(d) is repealed and the following substituted:**

**"**(d) occurred suddenly and unexpectedly when the deceased appeared to be in good health and was not under the care of a duly qualified medical practitioner or nurse practitioner;

**"**(d.1) occurred from disease, sickness or unknown cause, for which the deceased was not treated by a duly qualified medical practitioner or nurse practitioner**".**

**Section 8 amended**

**6 Subsection 8(1) is repealed and the following substituted:**

**"**(1) If a person held in any of the following places dies, the person in charge of that place shall immediately notify a coroner of the death:

(a) a lock-up;

(b) a military guardroom;

(c) a remand centre;

(d) a penitentiary as defined in the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* (Canada);

(e) a place where the person is held under a warrant of a judge;

(f) a correctional facility as defined in *The Correctional Services Act, 2012***".**

**Section 11 amended**

**7 Subsection 11(3) is repealed and the following substituted:**

**"**(3) A coroner may conduct an investigation without taking possession of the body if the body:

(a) has been destroyed in whole or in part;

(b) is lying in a place from which it cannot be recovered;

(c) has been removed from Saskatchewan; or

(d) cannot be located**".**

**Section 13 amended**

**8 Clause 13(1)(a) is repealed and the following substituted:**

**"**(a) may enter and inspect any place, including a private dwelling:

(i) where a deceased is;

(ii) from which the coroner has reason to believe a deceased was removed; or

(iii) where a deceased was, or where the coroner has reason to believe the deceased was, within a reasonable time before the deceased's death**".**

**Section 14 amended**

**9 Subsection 14(4) is repealed and the following substituted:**

**"**(4) For the purpose of establishing the cause and manner of death, the pathologist who performs a post-mortem examination may:

(a) remove and retain:

(i) any part of the body; or

(ii) any object found in the body; and

(b) conduct or direct any person other than a coroner to conduct any other examinations and analyses that the pathologist considers appropriate in the circumstances**".**

**New section 16**

**10 Section 16 is repealed and the following substituted:**

**"Coroner may obtain assistance**

**16**(1) The police service with jurisdiction in the municipality in which the coroner is conducting the investigation or inquest:

(a) shall give the coroner any assistance that the coroner may require; and

(b) may submit to the coroner a report of the results of any investigation the police service conducted respecting the death, in a form acceptable to the coroner.

(2) In addition to the police service mentioned in subsection (1), a coroner may obtain the assistance of other peace officers or persons for all or part of the investigation or inquest**".**

**New section 17**

**11 Section 17 is repealed and the following substituted:**

**"Report after investigation**

**17**(1) After an investigation, a coroner shall, as soon as is reasonably practicable:

(a) send to the chief coroner a report respecting the investigation that:

(i) includes the coroner's opinion respecting whether an inquest is necessary; and

(ii) if the coroner is of the opinion an inquest is not necessary, may include recommendations to prevent deaths in similar circumstances; and

(b) file any information that may be required pursuant to *The Vital Statistics Act, 2009*.

(2) If the chief coroner reasonably believes that it is necessary in the interests of public safety, the chief coroner may bring the following to the attention of the public or any segment of the public:

(a) information collected during a coroner's investigation;

(b) the investigation's findings and recommendations, which may include personal information as defined in *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*".

**New section 17.1**

**12 Section 17.1 is repealed and the following substituted:**

"**Release of body**

**17.1**(1) If a body, tissue or organ retained during a post-mortem examination is no longer required for the purposes of this Act, the coroner may release the body, tissue or organ for burial or other disposition in accordance with *The Funeral and Cremation Services Act*.

(2) If, within 30 days after a body, tissue or organ is no longer required for the purposes of this Act, the coroner is unable to obtain direction from an authorized decision-maker as defined in *The Funeral and Cremation Services Act* respecting where to release the body, tissue or organ retained during a post-mortem examination for burial or other disposition, the coroner shall refer the matter to the minister responsible for the administration of *The Social Services Administration Act* in accordance with subsection 91(5) of *The Funeral and Cremation Services Act*.

(3) If a body, tissue or organ retained during a post-mortem examination is unidentified and an investigation indicated that the body, tissue or organ is likely to remain unidentified, the chief coroner shall refer the matter to the minister responsible for the administration of *The Social Services Administration Act* in accordance with subsection 91(5) of *The Funeral and Cremation Services Act*".

**Section 17.3 amended**

**13(1) Subsection 17.3(1) is repealed and the following substituted:**

"(1) If, after the conclusion of an investigation, the coroner determines that an inquest is unnecessary, the spouse, parent, child, sibling, or executor or administrator of the deceased may, within 1 year after the conclusion of the investigation, request in writing that the chief coroner hold an inquest".

**(2) Subsection 17.3(3) is repealed and the following substituted:**

"(3) The chief coroner shall advise the person requesting an inquest of the chief coroner's final decision in writing within 60 days after the later of:

(a) receiving the request from the person pursuant to subsection (1); and

(b) receiving representations from the person pursuant to subsection (2)".

**Section 19 amended**

**14 Section 19 is amended:**

**(a) by renumbering it as subsection 19(1); and**

**(b) by adding the following subsection after subsection (1):**

**"**(2) In determining whether an inquest is necessary pursuant to subsection (1), the chief coroner may consider:

(a) the likelihood that the jury on an inquest will make useful recommendations with respect to the avoidance of further preventable deaths; and

(b) whether a public report respecting the death has been or will be issued by another agency, ministry or other entity of the Government of Saskatchewan**".**

**New section 20**

**15 Section 20 is repealed and the following substituted:**

**"Inquest required if person in custody dies**

**20** A coroner shall hold an inquest into the death of a person who dies while that person is being held in a place mentioned in subsection 8(1) or (2), unless the chief coroner is satisfied that:

(a) the person's death was due entirely to natural causes and was not preventable; or

(b) a public report of the Serious Incident Response Team adequately informs the public with respect to the factors mentioned in subsection 19(1)**".**

**New section 24**

**16 Section 24 is repealed and the following substituted:**

**"Number of jurors**

**24**(1) Subject to section 29.1, every inquest shall be held with a jury composed of 6 jurors.

(2) If there are fewer than 3 jurors, the coroner shall summon a new jury**".**

**Section 29 amended**

**17(1) Subsection 29(1) is repealed and the following substituted:**

**"**(1) The coroner may question the persons who are present as a result of a summons to determine their eligibility and suitability as jurors and, subject to section 29.1, shall select 6 persons from those who are present**".**

**(2) Subsection 29(4) is amended:**

**(a) in clause (a) by striking out "**person present in court**" and substituting "**persons present**"; and**

**(b) in clause (b) by striking out "**in court**".**

**New section 29.1**

**18 The following section is added after section 29:**

**"Alternate juror and additional juror**

**29.1**(1) If the coroner considers it advisable in the interests of justice, the coroner may select an alternate juror during the selection process pursuant to section 29.

(2) An alternate juror shall attend at the commencement of the inquest.

(3) If a juror dies or, in the opinion of the coroner, becomes unable to continue to serve as a juror for any reason, the coroner may direct that:

(a) the inquest proceed without that juror; or

(b) the alternate juror, if any, shall replace that juror.

(4) An alternate juror who is not required as an alternate juror may be excused by the coroner.

(5) If the coroner considers it advisable in the interests of justice, the coroner may select 7 jurors instead of 6 during the selection process pursuant to section 29**".**

**New section 30**

**19 Section 30 is repealed and the following substituted:**

**"Oath or affirmation**

**30** When the jurors are assembled, each juror shall take an oath or affirmation before the coroner to diligently inquire into the death of the person with respect to whom the inquest is to be held and to give a true finding according to the evidence**".**

**Section 45 amended**

**20 Clause 45(b) is amended by adding "**, including by photograph or video,**" after "**scene**".**

**Section 48 amended**

**21 Clause 48(1)(a) is amended by striking out "**telephone conference call**" and substituting "**telephone or other electronic means**".**

**Section 51 amended**

**22 Subsection 51(3) is amended by striking out "**five**" and substituting "**3**".**

**Section 54 amended**

**23 The following subsection is added after subsection 54(3):**

**"**(4) The coroner shall reject:

(a) any finding of a jury that contravenes subsection (2); or

(b) any recommendation of the jury pursuant to subsection (3) that, in the opinion of the coroner, is either illegal or not reasonable to implement**".**

**Section 55 amended**

**24 Clause 55(e) is repealed.**

**New section 59.2**

**25 The following section is added after section 59.1:**

**"Information sharing agreement**

**59.2**(1) The chief coroner may enter into an information sharing agreement under which information, including personal information as defined in *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, that is necessary and relevant to an investigation or inquest may be collected, used and disclosed.

(2) An information sharing agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (1) must identify all of the following:

(a) the nature and type of information that is to be collected, used or disclosed under the agreement;

(b) the persons, by name, title or position, who may have access to the information under the agreement;

(c) the limits or conditions, if any, on the collection, use or disclosure of the information being shared;

(d) the term of the agreement and the circumstances in which the agreement may be renewed, suspended or terminated**".**

**Section 64 amended**

**26 Section 64 is amended:**

**(a) by repealing clause (c) and substituting the following:**

**"**(c) respecting the use of forms that are approved and accepted by the chief coroner and requiring the use of those forms**"; and**

**(b) by repealing clause (d.4).**

**Coming into force**

**27** This Act comes into force on assent.

THIRD SESSION

# Thirtieth Legislature

SASKATCHEWAN

---

## BILL

No. 67

An Act to amend *The Coroners Act, 1999*

---

Received and read the

First time

Second time

Third time

And passed

---

Honourable Tim McLeod

---

Printed under the authority of
The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
of Saskatchewan
2026