



(PLEASE ADD DECEASED DETAILS HERE)

# LIFE EXTINCT FORM

Family name:

Given names:

Date of birth:

Gender:  M  F

(if identity is not known, record "UNKNOWN" above)

***This form is only completed when a Cause of Death Certificate is not likely to be issued expeditiously. When a cause of death certificate exists, a life extinct form is not required.***

- It must be documented in the person's clinical record / transport notes that the death has occurred.
- This form allows mortuary staff, funeral directors and police to remove and transport a person who is deceased.

## CORONER'S CASE

Is the death reportable to the Coroner under the *Coroners Act 2003*?  Yes  No

If Yes, under which category of reportable death (please tick one below) (see over for definitions)?

- Unknown Person
- Violent or unnatural (including trauma)
- Death in care
- Happened in suspicious circumstances
- Death in custody
- A cause of death certificate not likely to be issued
- Not reasonably expected to be the outcome of health procedure

Coroner or Police Officer / Station notified of death:.....

If No, state name of doctor issuing death certificate:.....

## LIFE EXTINCT CERTIFICATION

Location of examination:..... Date:..... Time:.....

This is an obvious death (see over for definition\*)

or

I have completed the following assessments and there is:

(please tick boxes below identifying clinical determination of death; all boxes must be ticked to certify death)

- No palpable carotid pulse
- No heart sounds heard for 30 seconds
- No breath sounds heard for 30 seconds
- No response to centralised stimuli
- Fixed dilated pupils

and

I declare life to be extinct.

**CERTIFYING PERSON DETAILS** (please print)

Name:.....

Position title:

- Medical Practitioner** (A medical practitioner, as defined in the Medical Practitioners Registration Act 2001)
- Registered Nurse** (A registered nurse, as defined in the Nursing Act 1992)
- Paramedic** (A paramedic, an ambulance officer as defined in the Ambulance Service Act 1991 and employed as a paramedic)
- Police Officer** (A Police Officer, as defined in the Police Service Administration Act 1990) (only for cases of obvious death - see over for details\*)

Signature:..... Date:.....

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS BINDING MARGIN

LIFE EXTINCT FORM

## **Reportable Deaths to the Coroner**

Under the *Coroners Act 2003*, the following are reportable deaths to the Coroner.

The local Coroner or the local Queensland Police station must be contacted to report the death under the *Coroners Act*. For more information please go to: [www.justice.qld.gov.au/courts/coroner/home](http://www.justice.qld.gov.au/courts/coroner/home)

### **Reportable death categories (Section 8)**

- a) It is not known who the person is; **or**
- b) the death was violent or otherwise unnatural death; **or**
- c) the death happened in suspicious circumstances; **or**
- d) the death was not reasonably expected to be the outcome of a health procedure; **or**
- e) a cause of death certificate has not been issued, and is not likely to be issued, for the person; **or**
- f) the death was a death in care; **or**
- g) the death was a death in custody.

### **Definition of death in care (Section 9)**

These deaths can be conveniently classified into 3 categories depending on whether the person:-

- had a disability as defined in s5 of the *Disability Services Act 1992* ("the DSA"); **or**
- was subject to involuntary assessment or treatment under the *Mental Health Act 2000* ("the MHA"); **or**
- was a child in the care or under the guardianship of the Department of Families.

### **Definition of death in custody (Section 10)**

This term is defined in s10 to include those who are at the time of their death:

- actually in custody, trying to escape from custody or trying to avoid being put into custody.
- "Custody" is defined to mean detention under arrest or the authority of a court order or an Act by a police officer or Corrective Services officer, court officers or other law enforcement personnel.

### **Definition of health procedure (Schedule 2)**

Means a dental, medical, surgical or other health related procedure, including for example the administration of an anaesthetic, analgesic, sedative or other drug.

## **\*Obvious death – where Queensland Police may issue Life Extinct Form**

"Obvious deaths" are those where the state of the body is clearly incompatible with life:

- **Severe incineration** has caused charring and blackening of most of the body surface, with exposure of underlying tissues in some areas; **or**
- **Extensive trauma** has caused decapitation, severance of the torso, disruption of a vital organ (eg brain), or fragmentation of the body; **or**
- **Well established decomposition** has caused extensive discolouration of the skin, bloating of the body, and, in some cases, larval infestation and partial exposure of bones; **or**
- **Advanced decomposition** has exposed most of the skeleton, so called "skeletal remains".

In obvious deaths, police officers (as well as doctors, registered nurses and paramedics) may issue a Life Extinct Form. This is the **ONLY** category in which police officers may issue a Life Extinct Form.

"Obvious deaths" associated with trauma or burns are reportable to the Coroner.

"Obvious deaths" associated with decomposition **may not** need to be reported if identification can be achieved, if a doctor can issue a certificate (Form 9) with an opinion as to a natural cause of death, and if the death is not otherwise reportable (see section 8 of the *Coroners Act 2003*).

**IF ANY DOUBT EXISTS THAT A PERSON IS DEAD,  
EMERGENCY RESUSCITATION ATTEMPTS SHOULD BE COMMENCED**