



LAWS OF ALASKA

1988

Source

CSIB 345 (HESS)

Chapter No.

26

AN ACT

Relating to coroners' inquests.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1, LINE 8

UNDERLINED MATERIAL INDICATES TEXT THAT IS BEING ADDED TO THE LAW AND BRACKETED MATERIAL IN CAPITAL LETTERS INDICATES DELETIONS FROM THE LAW; COMPLETELY NEW TEXT OR MATERIAL REPEALED AND RE-ENACTED IS IDENTIFIED IN THE INTRODUCTORY LINE OF EACH BILL SECTION.

Approved by the Governor: May 5, 1988
Actual Effective Date: August 3, 1988

AN ACT

Relating to coroners' inquests.

* Section 1. AS 12.65.020 is amended to read:

Sec. 12.65.020. DUTIES. (a) When a person dies unattended by a physician, or when no physician is prepared to execute the certificate of death prescribed by AS 18.50 (Vital Statistics Act) [THE VITAL STATISTICS ACT], the coroner assigned to serve the place where the death occurs may, by written order, direct a medical examiner to view the remains of the deceased person and to perform the post mortem examination, including an autopsy, necessary to make a proper determination of the cause of death and to execute the prescribed death certificate. When the medical examiner has completed [UPON THE COMPLETION OF] the examination, the examiner shall, without delay, submit a report of the findings and conclusions to the coroner.

(b) The coroner may [SHALL] order an inquest under this chapter if the findings and conclusions of the medical examiner, together with other information available to the coroner, warrant the inquest. Otherwise the coroner shall enter an order dispensing with the inquest and shall record the certificate of death as prescribed by law.

* Sec. 2. AS 12.65.040 is repealed and reenacted to read:

Sec. 12.65.040. INQUIRY INTO CAUSE OF DEATH. (a) When informed that a person has been killed by another or has died under circumstances that afford a reasonable ground to suspect that the death is the result of a crime or suicide, the coroner may inquire under

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1 AS 12.65.050 - 12.65.090 into the cause and manner of death.

2 (b) In deciding whether to conduct an inquest, the coroner shall
3 make a preliminary examination or direct a peace officer to conduct
4 the examination and report findings. On the basis of the preliminary
5 examination, the coroner shall determine whether an inquest is war-
6 ranted and, if warranted, conduct the inquest.

7 (c) This section does not apply if the death will be inquired
8 into by a grand jury.
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