



## Who We Are

The Coroners' Courts Support Service (CCSS) is an independent charity founded in 2003, whose trained volunteers offer emotional support and practical help to bereaved families, witnesses and others attending an Inquest at some of the Coroners' Courts. We can signpost people to other appropriate organisations and prior to the Inquest we can give you support and information via our Telephone Helpline.

## Your experience

Any death can have a devastating impact on the bereaved but when that death is sudden, unexplained or of an unknown cause it can only add to the negative impact on families. Strangers have to become involved in the death such as the Police, Coroner's Officers and the Pathologist. This can feel like an unwanted intrusion for the family at what should be a very private moment. It is not unusual to feel confused and as if you are losing control.

Bereavement is a universal experience yet it will be unique to each of us and it is natural to feel intense grief after someone dies. Usually people are resilient and manage to cope with difficult experiences but, when someone close to us dies, we can't imagine living without that person in our lives and the loss can be a physical pain. Family and friends can often feel helpless when seeing a loved one in so much distress.

## Impact of Bereavement

Bereavement and trauma can affect people in different ways and it is not unusual to feel shock, denial, anger, sadness and despair at any time.

You may lose confidence, feel powerless and that the future holds no hope. You may feel isolated and anxious and your physical and mental health may suffer. All these are common reactions and some people find that attending the Inquest can "bring it all back" and their grief is overwhelming.

There is no "normal" response to the death of a loved one and nor is there a timeline as to when you should "recover". Sometimes it is just about acceptance of what has happened and getting through one day at a time when all seems too much to bear. You may also have to take on additional responsibilities that are new to you.

### **Please call our Helpline for support**

Helpline 0300 111 2141  
Helpline email [helpline@ccss.org.uk](mailto:helpline@ccss.org.uk)

Office 0300 111 2140  
Office email [info@ccsupport.org.uk](mailto:info@ccsupport.org.uk)

[www.coronerscourtsupportservice.org.uk](http://www.coronerscourtsupportservice.org.uk)

Registered Charity No: 1105899



The Coroners' Courts  
Support Service



**THE CORONERS'  
COURTS SUPPORT  
SERVICE HELPLINE**

*0300 111 2141*

*helpline@ccss.org.uk*

*Bereavement Support  
Mon to Fri 09.00-19.00  
Sat 09.00-14.00*



## The Inquest

An Inquest can be a traumatic experience for anybody involved. We understand that a Coroner's Court can be a bewildering place to attend, As a bereaved family member or a witness it is an event of which you may have little or no understanding. The difficult circumstances that surround a death requiring an Inquest already complicate the grieving process and can often delay it. You may also feel you have been waiting and hoping for something to change once the Inquest is over.

Our aim is to help, guide and support everyone attending an Inquest. The CCSS's trained volunteers will support people through the often complicated and confusing process and explain the Inquest procedure to you, helping you have a much better understanding of your role within this often-unfamiliar environment.

## These are the experiences of some we have helped

*I felt so lost and lonely being far from home as well as dealing with the sad death of my ex-partner and father of my son. If you were not there, I have no idea how I would have handled it all*

*The volunteer was so helpful in explaining the procedures and looking after us throughout and afterwards. We couldn't have got through it without her*

*I felt calmer and more empowered, so I felt that I understood what was going on and it made the whole Inquest an extremely satisfactory and cathartic experience*

The volunteers meet anxious and distressed people every day from many different backgrounds, circumstances and lifestyles and understand the importance of supporting everyone attending with a non-judgmental attitude. Please contact us or check our website to see which Coroners' Courts our volunteers support people in.



We can also sign-post people to other appropriate organisations that may be able to help in the long term. Please visit our website.

# THE CORONERS' COURTS SUPPORT SERVICE

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