

Ministry of the Solicitor General

Ministère du Solliciteur général

Office of the Chief Coroner
Ontario Forensic Pathology Service

Bureau du coroner en chef
Service de médecine légale de l'Ontario



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C23-143A

DATE: September 29, 2023

MEMORANDUM TO: Bereavement Authority of Ontario
Ontario Funeral Service Association
Ontario Association of Cemetery and Funeral Professionals

FROM: Dirk Huyer, MD, Chief Coroner

RE: Changes to Regional Boundaries - follow up

I am writing in follow up to my memo of September 25 notifying you of the changes to regional boundaries and the introduction of province wide coroner scheduling. I would like to address a question that arose from helpful feedback provided.

The memo stated that “Under the new process, cremation and out of province shipment certificates are only to be sent for authorization to the coroner listed on the subregion specific schedules as first call for the day on which the request is made.” The question is what to do if the scheduled coroner declines the request, as might happen if there is a conflict of interest.

If a request to the coroner designated to receive requests for certificates is declined, you may direct the request to the second call coroner. If that coroner declines the request, or a second call coroner is not listed on the schedule, and you are unable to obtain an approval, you may contact the Regional Supervising Coroner for assistance. A Regional Supervising Coroner is always available through Provincial Dispatch (1-855-299-4100).

You will note on the schedule that, for a small number of subregions, the coroner designated to receive the cremation/shipment request is not the first call coroner. In these cases, if the designated coroner declines the request, you may direct the request to the first call coroner.

Please remember all requests are to be sent to the scheduled coroner who is designated to receive requests for certificates. Funeral Service Providers should no longer submit cremation requests to coroners by referring to coroner generated call schedules, directly to specific coroners due to preferred practice/response times, or to the coroner who completed the Medical Certificate of Death or Warrant to Bury (unless that coroner is the scheduled coroner designated to receive requests).

If you have any questions, please contact your local Regional Supervising Coroner or email occ.coronerscheduling@ontario.ca.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DH' with a stylized flourish.

Dirk Huyer, MD
Chief Coroner for Ontario