

# THE CORONERS' COURT

---

An Overview

*By*

*Her Worship Nalini Singh*













DEAD  
BODY

VIEW BODY AND  
BURIAL ORDERED

VIEW BODY AND  
POST MORTEM  
REPORT PREPARED



### SUMMARY OF OPINION AS TO CAUSE OF DEATH

From the above-mentioned information and appearances I am of the opinion that:

[REDACTED], a 60 years old male died of blunt force cranio-cerebral trauma sustained in a fall backwards with primary impact to the posterior (occipital) head. The primary impact against the firm, solid, broad striking surface resulted in laceration of posterior scalp with underlying scalp hematoma and injury to the skull and brain in the form of fracture of occipital skull, subdural and subarachnoid haemorrhage and haemorrhagic brain contusion. The biomechanism of trauma is consistent with a fall backwards and is substantiated by the coup/contre coup appearance of cranio-cerebral injury with primary (coup) impact in the posterior (occipital) brain and secondary (contrecoup) impact with contusion of frontal lobes. The deceased was reported as being a chronic alcoholic and this information was substantiated by autopsy findings indicative of and consistent with chronic alcohol abuse associated pathologic changes in liver, pancreas and heart, thus allowing to consider chronic alcoholism as a contributory factor.

In consideration of the circumstances surrounding this death and autopsy findings, the manner of death is accident.

*Inquest not ordered*  
*d*  
*1/10/14*

*Dr. Alexandrov*

Dr. Valery Alexandrov M.D (USA)  
Ph.D (Forensic Pathology) USA  
Forensic Pathologist

*X*

History:

The unresponsive body of this thirty-eight (38) year old man was certified dead; after reportedly being discovered with multiple perforating wounds slumped in the drivers seat of a motor car.

SUMMARY OF OPINION AS TO CAUSE OF DEATH

From the above-mentioned information and appearances I am of the opinion that: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], a thirty-eight (38) year-old man died of a **GUNSHOT WOUNDS**.

request  
order  
26/11/18

DATE: September 20, 2018  
/cf

*Hughvon des Vignes*  
Hughvon des Vignes  
BSc. MBBS. D.M (Path)  
Forensic Pathologist

DR. HUGHVON E. DES VIGNES  
BSc. M.B.B.S D.M. (Path.)  
ANATOMIC/FORENSIC PATHOLOGIST



POST  
MORTEM  
REPORT  
ARRIVES  
AT  
COURT

INQUEST NOT  
ORDERED STAMP

INQUEST  
ORDERED STAMP







Preliminary  
Investigation

File Closed

Decision to Commence  
Inquest Made



2nd COURT



REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO  
SUMMONS TO WITNESS—CORONER'S INQUEST  
(The Coroner's Ordinance, Ch. 3, No. 5)

COUNTY OF *Victoria East*

To

of

WHEREAS I the undersigned Coroner for the  
*Victoria East* District have

directed that an Inquest should be held into the cause and circumstances of  
*Inquest into the death of* *14/4/13*  
And it has been made to appear to me that you are likely to give material  
evidence in that behalf:

This is therefore to require you to be and appear at nine o'clock a.m.  
on *wednesday* the *10th* day of *January*, 20 *18* at  
*P1 Tow* Police Court before the Coroner in the said Court  
to testify what you know concerning the matter of the said

Dated this *29th* day of *December*, 20 *17*.

*Em. R.*

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE  
COUNTY VICTORIA  
PRINCES TOWN/MORUGA

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE  
VICTORIA EAST MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT  
PRINCES TOWN MAGISTRATES' COURT



## Section 28 Chap 6:04

- If, during the course or at the close of any inquest, the Coroner is of opinion that sufficient grounds are disclosed for making a charge on indictment against any person, he may issue his warrant for the apprehension of the person and taking him before a Magistrate, and may bind over any witness who has been examined by or before him in a recognisance with or without surety to appear and give evidence before the Magistrate.



# Jervis on the Office and Duties of Coroners at paras 13-31 to 13-32

---

“The Coroners Act 1887 required the inquest, in case of a finding of murder or manslaughter, to name the person(s) found to have committed the homicide, and the inquisition operated as an indictment of the person(s) so charged, who would be committed for trial on the inquisition at the next assizes...”

Prior to 1977 a finding of murder or manslaughter by an inquest operated to charge a person, not to convict him. And a grand jury, or (later) examining magistrates, did not have to be satisfied of guilt beyond reasonable doubt before committing for trial. A case to answer was sufficient”. (emphasis mine)



Dixon CJ in May v. O'Sullivan 92 CLR  
654 at pages 656 to 657



REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

CORONER'S INQUEST  
WARRANT OF APPREHENSION  
*Coroner's Act, Chap. 6:04, Sec: 28*

Magistrates—121

DISTRICT .....  
TO ALL CONSTABLES:

WHEREAS on the.....day of.....19.....  
.....came to his/her death due to  
.....  
.....

Whereas upon it was ordered that an Inquest be held as to the cause and circumstances of such death;  
And Whereas during the course of or at the close of the said Inquest at the Coroner's Court.....

on the.....day of.....19.....  
I, the undersigned Coroner, am of the opinion that sufficient grounds are disclosed for making a charge of  
.....an indictable offence, against  
of.....

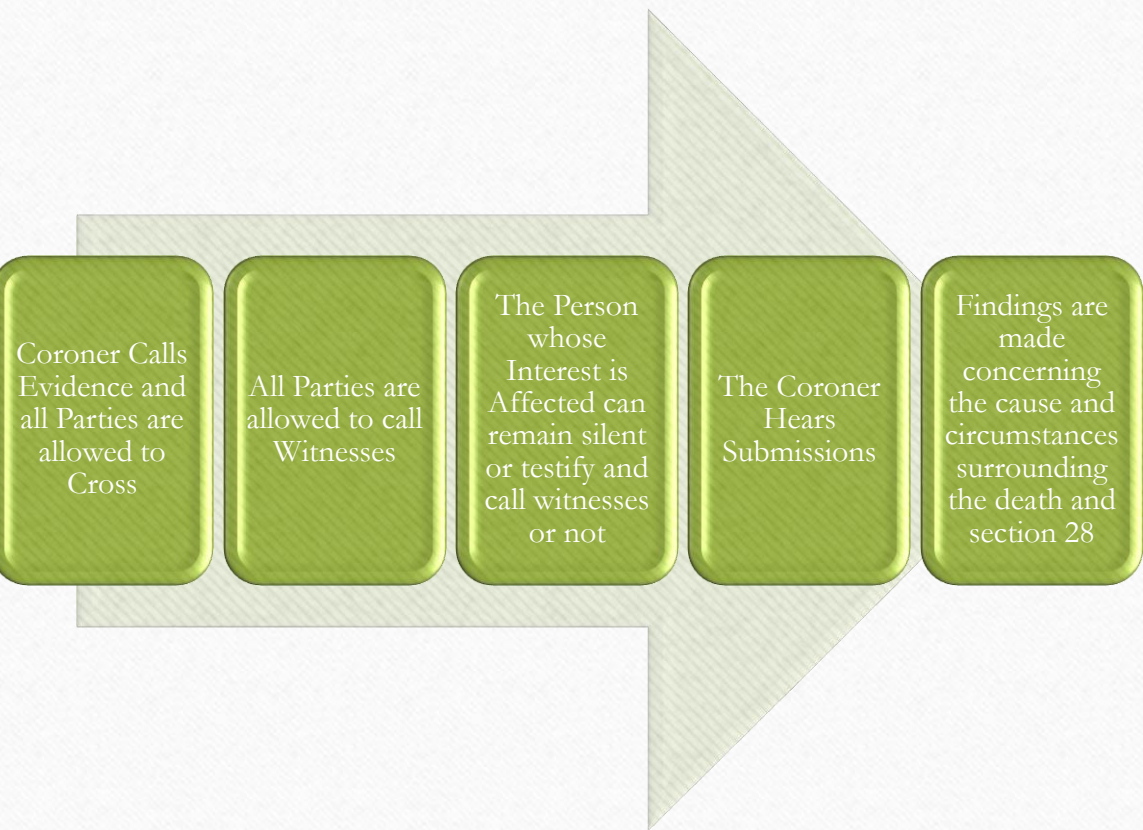
Now, therefore these are to authorize and require you, and each of you forthwith to take the body of the said  
.....  
.....  
and him to bring before a Magistrate for examination of the said charge, and for so doing this shall be your  
Warrant.

Given under my hand at the.....  
Coroner's Court.

This.....day of.....19.....

.....  
Coroner









*That's all Folks!*