

- And has no reason to believe
 - a) that the deceased objected to such possession (either in writing at any time or orally in the presence of two or more witnesses during his last illness); or
 - (b) that the surviving spouse or relatives object to such possession.

3 Coroners Act 1988

The Coroners Act 1988 authorises coroners to make proper enquiries where they are notified that a body is lying within their district and there are reasonable grounds to suspect that the deceased may have died a violent or unnatural death or a sudden death of which the cause is unknown or have died in prison or in such circumstances as to require that an inquest be carried out under some other Act of Parliament.

The coroner's enquiries are limited to establishing who the deceased was, how, when and where he came by his death, and the particulars required under the Registration Acts. In order to complete these enquiries, it is generally necessary for the coroner to direct a post mortem examination of the body, although this is concerned with establishing the cause of death it would be limited in that it is restricted to providing evidence to establish the matters within the jurisdiction of the coroner and to no other matter.

The implications of the 1988 Act and the coroner's jurisdiction are considered in more detail below.

4 The Human Organs Transplant Act 1989

The 1989 Act prohibits commercial dealings in organs, whether taken from living or dead bodies for transplantation into someone not genetically related to the donor. The common law on transplantation between genetically related individuals is unaffected.

Section 1 provides:

"(1) A person is guilty of an offence if in Great Britain he