

Missing Persons

Information on what to do when
family or friends go missing in Queensland

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ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The healing process can never really begin because there is no resolution. The rituals associated with the death of a loved one are denied us. The law requires us to pretend that time stands still. The house must remain unattended, the car idle in the garage. What do you do about life insurance and superannuation? What does a spouse do about their joint pension entitlements? How do parents deal with their wills? Money left to missing children by loving grandparents sits in trusts unclaimed.

Hansard, Senate, 1 Sept. 1997, Commonwealth of Australia [1997]

This guide has been created to assist those who are dealing with a missing person in Queensland.

It is understood that when someone is missing, the day-to-day situation may be uncertain. This guide therefore considers the options for friends and family in the short and long-term event that the person who has gone missing is not located or does not return before decisions need to be made about their property, pets and belongings.

This material may be confronting if you have not previously considered the circumstances it addresses. You are encouraged to take your time reading through the material and seek the support of family, friends and service providers as you feel necessary. Helpful links to support services, such as legal services and counselling centres, are included in the Contact Points section of this guide.

Whilst this guide may not provide an answer to all your questions, it will provide help and guidance in navigating this difficult time.

Below are some things you might want to consider when a family member or friend goes missing:

- Does the person have a house or apartment? If a mortgage is owed on any of the person's property, discuss with their bank about how to deal with repayments. If the missing person was renting, meet with the landlord to discuss termination of the rental agreement. Only the landlord or the person leasing the property can terminate the rental agreement.
- Does the person have any pets? Decide who will be taking care of the pets in their owner's absence. If you cannot or are unwilling to take care of any pets left behind, ensure that they are cared for through the RSPCA.

- Are you aware of any debts owed? If you are being hassled about money owed by the missing person, it can be helpful to contact the person or organisation chasing you for that debt. You can explain to them the situation at hand and try and reach an agreement about the repayment of moneys owed.
- If the person's car is registered and insured for only them to drive, do not drive the car until you have discussed your options with their insurance company and the Department of Transport and Main Roads.
- Make sure to contact the appropriate providers to discuss cancellation of phone and internet plans. You are encouraged to consult with police prior to cancellation of phone plans in particular, as this may be an important link to the missing person.
- Contact the missing person's bank to discuss possible options for releases of funds and account management.
- Contact Centrelink, the Australian Taxation Office, any superannuation fund in the person's name, and any relevant private health insurer and other insurance companies to inform them of the situation.
- Was the missing person employed? Contact the missing person's employer to discuss their employment contract, any outstanding wages owed and other relevant matters.

If you are at the stage where you are looking to obtain a death certificate for the missing person, refer to [The Coronial Process in Queensland, Applying for a Death Certificate and After a Presumption of Death is Found](#) below.

However, if you are at the stage where you simply wish to deal with your missing person's estate in the interim, refer to the sections on [Dealing with a Missing Person's Estate where a Presumption of Death Does not Apply](#) and [Power of Attorney](#) below.

LEGAL TERMS EXPLAINED

Administrator: the person holding authority to deal with the estate of someone who has died intestate.

Affidavit: a written statement setting out a person's evidence (i.e. information that tends to prove or disprove a fact).

Assets: anything of value owned by a person's estate including bank accounts, superannuation, property, land, real estate and any other item that has monetary value.

Attorney-General: the head legal officer who looks after the legal interests of the state government.

Births, Deaths and Marriages Registry: a government department that manages matters relating to births, deaths and marriages.

Coroner: the official appointed by the government to confirm and certify the death of a particular individual.

Coronial inquest: a formal court hearing by the coroner into the circumstances of a death.

District Court: the second tier in the court hierarchy of Queensland. The majority of applications for presumption of death will be made to this court.

Estate: all assets and liabilities of a person. This can include land, real estate, personal items, bank accounts, cars, shares, debts, loans and mortgages.

Executor: the person appointed to deal with the deceased person's estate where that person left a will.

Grant of probate: an official recognition that a will is legally valid, and that the applicant is legally entitled to deal with the deceased person's estate.

Intestate: the word used to describe the situation where a person has died without making a valid will (e.g. 'She died intestate').

Legal interest: for the purposes of this guide, a person with a legal interest is anyone who has a claim or right to a missing person's estate that will be recognised by the courts.

Letters of Administration: a document granting official recognition that the applicant has authority to deal with a deceased's estate, when no will was left.

Missing person: someone whose whereabouts are unknown and there are serious concerns about their wellbeing.

Power of attorney: the power given by one person to another to make legally binding decisions on their behalf. There are two types of power of attorney: general and enduring. A general power of attorney is given for a specific period of time, while an enduring power of attorney allows decisions to be made for a person where they no longer have capacity to do so for themselves.

Public Trustee: a government organisation that provides a range of services relating to the estate of a deceased person.

Supreme Court: the highest court in Queensland. Applications for presumption of death can be made to this court.

Will: a document in which a person specifies the arrangements to take effect upon the will maker's death.

MISSING PERSONS AND THE POLICE

You do not need to wait 24 hours to report a person as missing. You may report a person as missing at any chosen time. If you have reasonable concerns about a person's safety or welfare, contact your local police station. They will take the initial report. It may be helpful to remember that [Queensland Police](#) locate 99.7% of missing persons.

You cannot report a person as missing over the telephone. You need to attend your local police station to file a missing persons report. You will need to provide the following information to your local police station when making the report:

- physical description of the missing person including distinguishable features
- a recent photograph of the missing person
- where and when the person was last seen or heard from
- places the missing person may visit
- list of any medical problems or medications the person may need
- names and contacts of friends associated with the person
- recent mental health history and state of mind of the missing person
- the missing person's banking institution and employment status
- any social media profiles
- any possible relationship issues.

The police will use this information to identify any triggers for the person to go missing.

You may also wish to contact the [Missing Persons Unit](#) of the Queensland Police Service. See Contact Points for details.

Any information received will be treated as confidential.

Once informed, the Missing Persons Unit can:

- overview and assist in the investigation of all missing persons reports
- review all outstanding missing persons reports after a specified period and refer suspicious and out-of-character disappearances to the Homicide Investigation Unit
- check their record of unidentified bodies located in Queensland. The [Queensland Police Service's Missing Persons policy](#) is available to the public.

DEALING WITH A MISSING PERSON'S ESTATE WHERE A PRESUMPTION OF DEATH DOES NOT APPLY

If you are unable or unwilling to have a missing person presumed dead, there are a number of avenues that can be taken.

Applying for an administrator—

at the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal

An application can be made to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) for an administrator to be appointed for the missing person's estate. QCAT will decide whether the person is in fact missing and whether there is an urgent need to deal with their finances. If QCAT is satisfied of this, they will appoint an administrator to manage the person's property, bank accounts and to pay off any debts owing. An administrator can be a family member, a friend or the Public Trustee.

Read [more](#) about the role and responsibilities of an administrator.

at the Public Trustee

You can also apply directly to the [Public Trustee](#) for a review of the missing person's unclaimed property (see [s 104 Public Trustee Act 1978 \(Qld\)](#)). If the Public Trustee thinks it is necessary, they can become the administrator of the estate. Becoming administrator will give the Public Trustee access to property and bank accounts of the missing person to pay off debts, manage the maintenance of any dependent spouse or child and any other actions they deem necessary. The Public Trustee must be satisfied that the whereabouts of the person are unknown after reasonable efforts to locate them have been made.

If the net worth of the missing person's estate is over \$75 000, the Public Trustee must apply to the court for an order allowing them to become administrator. If the order is granted, the Public Trustee must then advertise their intention to administer the estate in the local newspaper for two months in order to alert any owner or related person of their intention.

If the net worth of the missing person's estate is under \$75 000, the Public Trustee may administer the estate at their own discretion.

Please note that the decision of the Public Trustee as to whether to deal with the estate is at their discretion. This means that they are under no obligation to deal with any unclaimed property.

Rental properties

If the missing person was renting, you should discuss terminating the lease with the landlord. The landlord must store any possessions left on the premises for a prescribed time, after which they can be sold. The proceeds of the sale (less the cost of selling and storing which will be given to the landlord) will be paid to the Public Trustee as 'unclaimed money'. This money can then be used to pay any owing debt to the landlord, and the remainder will be held on trust for the person to claim if they return. Goods that cannot be sold (e.g. documents) will be given to the Public Trustee to hold (see ss 363 to 364 of the *Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008* [Qld]).

Unpaid rates

If the missing person owns real estate and that land/property has overdue rates owed to the local council, the council has the power to take the land and sell it to pay off money owing (see *Local Government Act 2009* [Qld]).

POWER OF ATTORNEY

There are two kinds of power of attorney:

- general power of attorney
- enduring power of attorney.

If the missing person executed a general power of attorney, this would only give a person the power to make decisions on their behalf for a specific period of time or event. However, general powers of attorney end when a person loses capacity. Loss of capacity happens when the person who made the general power of attorney is no longer able to make decisions for themselves. Going missing is equivalent to losing capacity. Therefore being missing would constitute a loss of capacity rendering the general power of attorney of no use.

However, if the person executed an enduring power of attorney prior to going missing, then the person named as their power of attorney can deal with their personal and financial matters.

The enduring power of attorney ceases to have effect once a person has been declared dead. Once a person is declared dead, their estate is either dealt with pursuant to a grant of probate or letters of administration, as explained later in this guide.

THE CORONIAL PROCESS IN QUEENSLAND

Once a person is reported to the Missing Persons Unit, they will refer the matter on to the state coroner as soon as the missing person is reasonably suspected of being deceased. In Queensland, the coroner will control and coordinate the process of investigation, with the assistance of police officers. The coroner possesses wide powers of investigation and can order additional reports, statements or information about the deaths. Upon consideration of these enquiries, the coroner will then consider whether or not to hold an inquest into the death. This process also involves consultation with the family of the missing person.

Support for families

If you are concerned about yourself, or about someone you know, you can contact [Coronial Services](#), which is part of Queensland Health Forensic and Scientific Services. Skilled counsellors can help by providing:

- information about the coronial process
- information about the autopsy process including possible retention of organs and tissue
- information about the cause of death
- support during identification and viewings
- information about and referrals to local support groups and services.

What can the coroner investigate

The coroner's missing persons jurisdiction is limited to those matters where no body has been found but there is reason to suspect a person is dead. A coroner can investigate a death that:

- is a reportable death and
- is not under investigation by another coroner.

The state coroner may direct a coroner to investigate a suspected death if they:

- suspect the person is dead AND consider it a reportable death or
- have been directed by the minister to have the death investigated ([s 11\(4\) Coroners Act 2003](#) [Qld] [Coroners Act]).

When can the coroner investigate

The coroner can only investigate a suspected death:

- upon direction from the state coroner who must suspect the person has died in circumstances that make the death reportable
- because the Attorney-General has directed that the suspected death be investigated
- upon your written request to the coroner outlining why you think it is in the public interest for an inquest to be held (more information is available on the Queensland Courts [website](#)).

What is a reportable death

A reportable death encompasses a death if it happened:

- in Queensland
- outside of Queensland and:
 - the person's body is in Queensland at the time of death
 - the person ordinarily lived in Queensland
 - the person, at the time of death, was on a journey to or from somewhere in Queensland
 - the death was caused by an event that happened in Queensland.

A death is also reportable if:

- it is not known who the person is
- the death was a violent or otherwise unnatural death
- the death happened in suspicious circumstances
- a cause of death certificate has not been issued, and it is not likely to be issued, for the person.

A death is not a reportable death if it happened outside Queensland and has been reported to a non-Queensland coroner.

Where a person is missing and death cannot be proved, the law provides that if a person has not been seen or heard from by those who might be expected to have seen or heard from them, and all due enquiries made have produced no positive result, the circumstantial evidence may be sufficient to make a finding of death (see the case *Axon v Axon* [1937] 59 CLR 395, 404–405 as an example). Circumstantial evidence can include when a loved one you expected to find at home has not been seen in a few days, there is no reason to believe they would run away and all their personal belongings are still at home.

In order to fulfil these requirements, the coroner will undertake checks with the Australian Taxation Office, Centrelink, Medicare, financial institutions, interstate registries of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Australian or overseas police services and immigration authorities. Evidence from family,

friends, treating doctors, work colleagues, business or other associates can assist in determining whether the missing person's life and character immediately before their disappearance was consistent with that of a person likely to stage a disappearance and create a false identity.

Other factors, such as time spent missing, circumstances of danger (e.g. illness, enlistment for active service, participation in dangerous activities) will contribute to the coroner's finding (see the case *Axon v Axon* [1937] 59 CLR 395, 404–405).

What will be included in the coroner's findings?

The coroner investigating the suspected death will, if possible, find whether or not a death has in fact occurred. The coroner will also specify who the deceased person is, how the person died, when the person died, where the person died and what caused the person to die (s 45 Coroners Act). A written copy of the findings will be given to a family member of the deceased who can then choose to accept the document for the deceased person's family (s 45(4)(a) Coroners Act).

If the coroner finds the person has died, can the death be registered in Queensland?

In order to be registered in Queensland, the coroner must have evidence that the person died in Queensland (s 8(2) Coroners Act).

APPLYING FOR A DEATH CERTIFICATE

Should the coronial process not amount to a finding of death of a missing person, friends and relatives of a person who has gone missing in Queensland can apply for either a declaration of death or leave to swear death.

Application for a declaration of death

Where can an application for a declaration of death be made?

If the missing person is presumed to have died in Queensland, an application can be made by a person with a legal interest in the missing person's estate to the District Court to order the registrar to register the death (s 31(1) *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003* (Qld)).

Otherwise, an application for a declaration of death can be made in the Supreme Court of Queensland. It is strongly advisable that you seek legal advice prior to commencing proceedings in the District or Supreme Court of Queensland. Free legal advice may be obtained from a community legal centre (CLC). A list of CLCs is available from [Community Legal Centres Queensland](#).

When will a declaration of death be awarded?

The first presumption the court makes is that the person is alive (see the case of *Axon v Axon* [1937] 59 CLR 395, 404–405). Documents such as a birth certificate, a marriage certificate and bank statements prove this.

Factors that will weaken this presumption include:

- the length of time missing (after seven years the court is inclined to treat the life as having ended)
- any circumstances of danger surrounding the disappearance (e.g. illness, pre-existing mental conditions or disabilities), enlistment for active service and participation in dangerous activities (e.g. scuba diving or skydiving).

Who must prove that death has likely occurred?

The person seeking to assert that the missing person should be presumed dead must convince the court through direct, circumstantial or inferred evidence that this is the case.

Examples are:

- direct evidence (e.g. witnesses saw the missing person being washed out to sea)
- circumstantial evidence (e.g. the ship on which the missing person was last seen has been found ship wrecked)
- inferred evidence (e.g. the person has been missing for seven years or more, and it would be unreasonable to expect them to be alive).

What standard do the courts expect?

The courts must be satisfied that reasonable enquiries have been made regarding the missing person's fate or whereabouts without result. Reasonable enquiries include but are not limited to notification of the disappearance to the Queensland Police Service and repeated attempts to contact them (via street address, phone, email or social media networks) without success.

The courts have previously set out that, in order for the presumption of death to be found, the following requirements should be satisfied:

- There is no clear evidence that the person in question was alive at some time during a continuous period of seven years (or more) from persons who would be likely to have heard of them over that period.
- and
- All due enquiries have been made that are appropriate in the circumstances of the disappearance (see case of *Chard v Chard* [1956] P.259, 272).

When will a person be deemed to have died?

Where the court finds that the missing person should be presumed dead, the person will be presumed dead as of the date that the judgment is rendered (see case of *Re Phene's Trust* [1870] LR 5 Ch. 139).

In order to prove that the death occurred at a certain point in time, a friend or relative of the missing person must produce compelling evidence (e.g. where a person is washed out to sea following a fishing expedition; this might be evidence enough that the person disappeared on a particular day).

What happens if I am unable to obtain a presumption of death?

Until a presumption of death is made under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, a person is presumed to be alive in the eyes of the law. As such, an application for a grant of probate or letters of administration cannot be made.

Application for leave to swear death

Fulfilling the presumption of death in order to obtain the right to apply for a grant of probate or letters of administration can be a stressful and demanding task. The arbitrary time frame of seven years can be a particularly onerous requirement where there are pressing issues concerning a missing person's estate that need fast or immediate resolution. In these cases, friends and relatives can apply for leave to swear to the death of the missing person.

Where can an application for leave to swear to the death be made?

An application can be made to the Supreme Court ([s 6\(2\) Succession Act 1981 \(Qld\)](#) (Succession Act)).

What standard do the courts expect?

The person wanting to assert that the missing person has died must prove on the balance of probabilities that they are dead (see the case of *Re Bennett* [2006] QSC 250, 50). This means that it must be more likely the person is dead than alive.

How can this be proved?

The applicant should support their application for a grant of probate or letters of administration with an affidavit outlining those facts that establish their right to swear to the death. If the evidence is not strong enough to allow the applicant to swear to the death, they can swear to a belief that the death has occurred (see the case of *Re Parker* [1995] 2 Qd R 617, 621). Applicants should be aware that this is a very difficult requirement to prove and a high standard of evidence will be expected.

What does it mean when leave to swear to the death is granted?

When leave to swear to the death is granted, the issue of death becomes a matter of fact rather than belief (see case of *Re Parker* [1995] 2 Qd R 617, 621). Ultimately, this bears the same weight as a death certificate and satisfies one essential prerequisite to a grant of probate or letters of administration.

AFTER A PRESUMPTION OF DEATH IS FOUND

The missing person left a will—obtaining a grant of probate

What is a grant of probate?

A grant of probate is a document that allows the executor of the deceased's will to carry out the terms of the will. It is a document that states the executor is legally authorised to deal with the estate.

Why do I need a grant of probate?

Some people and organisations in which the deceased held assets (e.g. banks and insurers) may not release those assets without sighting the grant of probate.

How do I obtain a grant of probate?

Applying for a grant of probate is a very procedural, costly and strict process. All of the following steps must be strictly complied with before a court will be willing to order a grant of probate:

- Advertise your intention to apply for a grant of probate by placing an advert in the public notices section of:
 - a newspaper circulating throughout the state or
 - a newspaper approved for the area of the deceased's last known address (Supreme Court Practice Direction 2/2014 states the approved newspapers) and
 - the Queensland Law Reporter.
- Complete Form 103—Notice of Intention to Apply for Grant.
- Give the Public Trustee a copy of the ad at least seven days before filing the application for grant of probate by post, fax or in person.
- Wait two weeks after posting the ad before moving on to the next step. This is done in case anyone wishes to object to the terms of the will.
- After the two-week waiting period, complete and file the following documents to apply for a grant of probate:

- Form 100—Probate Title filed together with Form 101—Application for Probate (staple forms 100 and 101 together prior to filing)
- Form 100—Probate Title filed together with Form 105—Affidavit. Staple forms 100 and 105 together prior to filing. Stapled forms 100 and 105 must include as exhibits the original will (do not pin, staple or attach anything to the will, this will invalidate it) and the original death certificate (certified by the registrar general). The exhibits are preceded by a cover page in the form of Form 47—Certificate of Exhibit.
- Form 100—Probate Title filed together with Form 104—Affidavit of Publication and Service. Staple forms 100 and 104 together prior to filing. Stapled forms 100 and 104 must include as an exhibit a copy of the sealed Form 103—Notice of Intention to Apply for Grant. The exhibited form 103 must be preceded by Form 47—Certificate of Exhibit.
- File the prepared application for grant of probate documents at the Supreme Court with the relevant \$660 fee.
- If the will shows any sign of damage or tampering, Form 111—Affidavit of Plight & Condition & Finding will need to be completed. Form 47—Certificate of Exhibit, the original will and any exhibit supporting the affidavit must be exhibited.

The forms are available on the Queensland Courts [website](#).

Once filed, it takes the court approximately four weeks to make the grant of probate. If there are any problems, the applicant will be contacted by court staff.

What are the costs of obtaining a grant of probate?

Costs that may need to be factored into applying for a grant of probate include:

- advertising fees (approximately \$585 including GST; this estimate is based on costs of advertising in the Courier Mail and the Queensland Law Reporter)
- court filing fees (\$660 for application for probate (sch 1 *Uniform Civil Procedure (Fees) Regulation 2009 (Qld)*)
- postage (if posting form 103 to the Public Trustee)
- solicitor fees (approximately \$1732.80 including GST for a standard probate application if you choose to use the Public Trustee as at 1 July 2013).

Once probate has been granted, the normal succession law principles apply (pt 2 Succession Act).

The executor's duties of the missing person's estate

If you have been appointed executor of the missing person's estate, your duties include:

- lodging tax returns and finalising tax affairs
- advertising for any debts owing, and paying those debts. Sections 56 and 57 of the Succession Act allow for assets from the estate to be used to pay off debts of the deceased
- finalising any financial or business affairs
- paying out legacies
- distributing or transferring the estate property according to the will.

Executors must take care in dealing with the estate as they can be held accountable for any losses.

For further details regarding your role as executor of the missing (now presumed dead) person's estate, contact a lawyer or the Public Trustee if the Public Trustee is listed as the executor.

The missing person did not leave a will—obtaining letters of administration

What are letters of administration?

The letters of administration are evidence that the court is satisfied that the person who is applying has the authority to administer the estate. That person is then called the 'administrator'.

The deceased's next of kin, including de facto spouses, can apply for letters of administration.

Why do I need letters of administration?

Because the missing, now presumed deceased, person has not left a will, the assets they have held cannot be dealt with by anyone. They are said to have died intestate and the intestacy rules in pt 3 of the Succession Act apply.

To deal with someone else's assets, you need to obtain authority to do so. The letters of administration provide such authority to the person who successfully applies for them.

How do I obtain letters of administration?

To obtain letters of administration, you need to apply for a grant of probate. The process is the same as that for applicants where the person left a will in terms of advertising requirements and waiting periods (see above).

After the two-week waiting period, complete and file the following documents to apply for letters of administration (all documents must be typed):

- Form 100—Probate Title and Form 102—Application for Letters. Staple forms 100 and 102 together
- Form 100—Probate Title and Form 109—Affidavit. Staple forms 100 and 109 together and include the death certificate of the presumed dead person. Complete Form 47—Certificate of Exhibit to go with the death certificate
- Form 100— Probate Title and Form 104—Affidavit. Staple forms 100 and 104 together and include as an exhibit a copy of the sealed form 103—Notice of Intention to Apply for Grant. The exhibited form 103 must be preceded by Form 47—Certificate of Exhibit.

The above forms must all be filed together at the Supreme Court registry with the relevant \$660 fee. The court will make a determination about whether to grant the letters of administration.

Once filed, it takes the court approximately four weeks to make the grant for letters of administration. If there are any problems, the applicant will be contacted by court staff.

What are the costs of obtaining letters of administration?

Costs that may need to be factored into applying for letters of administration include:

- advertising fees (approximately \$585 including GST)
- court filing fees (\$660 for application for letters of administration)
- postage (if posting form 103 to the Public Trustee)
- solicitor fees if a solicitor is engaged to prepare documents.

Intestacy rules

If a person dies without leaving a will, their estate is divided according to pt 3 of the Succession Act.

The administrator's duties of the missing person's estate

Sections 56 and 57 of the Succession Act allow for debts of the deceased to be paid for using assets from the estate.

All other duties are contained in pt 5, divs 1 and 2.

Administrators must take care when dealing with the estate as they can be held accountable for any losses.

CONTACT POINTS

Legal Support

CAXTON LEGAL CENTRE

1 Manning Street
South Brisbane Qld 4101
Tel: (07) 3214 6333
www.caxton.org.au

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES QUEENSLAND

Queensland community legal centres have combined to form Community Legal Centres Queensland (CLCQ) to lobby for more funding and better representation. While CLCQ is not able to provide legal advice the organisation may make referrals to member services.

PO Box 119
Stones Corner Qld 4120
Tel: (07) 3392 0092
Email: admin@communitylegalqld.org.au
<http://communitylegalqld.org.au>

LEGAL AID QUEENSLAND

44 Herschel Street
Brisbane Qld 4000
Tel: 1300 651 188
www.legalaid.qld.gov.au/Get-legal-help

THE PUBLIC TRUSTEE

444 Queen Street
Brisbane Qld 4000
Tel: 1300 360 044
Email: clientenq@pt.qld.gov.au
www.pt.qld.gov.au

THE QUEENSLAND LAW SOCIETY

The Queensland Law Society can put you in contact with a solicitor specialising in succession law.

Tel: 1300 367 757
You can find a solicitor online at:
http://www.qls.com.au/For_the_community/Find_a_solicitor

Counselling and Support Groups

CORONIAL SERVICES

The coronial services, which is part of the Queensland Health Forensic and Scientific Services, provide information and support to those bereaved by suicide or other sudden death.
Tel: (07) 3274 9200

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/qhcss/qhss/fss/forensic-path.asp>

CRIME STOPPERS

Tel: 1800 333 000 (within Australia)
or report online at
<https://www.crimestoppersqld.com.au/home.jsp>

KIDS HELPLINE

Kids Helpline is a 24-hour counselling service for Australian children and young people aged between 5 and 25 years.
Tel: 1800 551 800

If you cannot get to a phone, try their email or web counselling services for kids:

<https://kidshelpline.com.au/Kids>

or teens:

<https://kidshelpline.com.au/teens/>

Web counselling service:

<http://www.kidshelp.com.au/kids/get-help/>

For general information please contact:

Kids Helpline Administration
GPO Box 2469

Brisbane Qld 4001
Tel: (07) 3369 1588

LIFELINE

Lifeline provides a national, 24-hour telephone counselling and referral service.

Tel: 13 11 14
www.lifeline.org.au

MISSING PERSONS ADVOCACY NETWORK

The Missing Persons Advocacy Network creates awareness for missing persons and provides practical support to those left behind.

Email: info@mpan.com.au
Tel: 0405 102 831

<http://mpan.com.au>

MISSING PERSONS UNIT

Queensland Police Service

GPO Box 1440

Brisbane Qld 4001

Police Headquarters

200 Roma Street

Brisbane Qld 4000

Tel: 61 7 3364 6213 (international), (07) 3364 6231 (local) or 1800 017 744 (within Australia)

Email: MissingPersons@police.qld.gov.au

<https://www.police.qld.gov.au/EventsandAlerts/missingPersons/>

NATIONAL MISSING PERSONS COORDINATION CENTRE

This centre provides relevant information, resources and referrals to families and friends of missing persons on a range of issues.

<https://www.missingpersons.gov.au/>

The National Missing Persons Coordination Centre (NMPCC) is a client of the Translating and Interpreting Service (<https://www.tisnational.gov.au/>). If you do not speak English and/or require the assistance of an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 13 14 50 and inform them what language you speak. They will reach an interpreter and phone the NMPCC for you with you on the line.

NOT ALONE

Not Alone is a web-based community for parents, family and friends of victims of suspected homicide. Their website provides profiles of missing people suspected murdered, and provides details of support networks established by the Not Alone Foundation.

<http://www.notalone.com.au>

RELATIONSHIPS AUSTRALIA

Relationships Australia is a leading provider of relationship support services for individuals, families and communities. They aim to support all people in Australia to achieve positive and respectful relationships.

Their services are for all members of the community, regardless of religious belief, age, gender, sexual orientation, lifestyle choice, cultural background or economic circumstances.

They offer services around the country including counselling, community support and education programs.

Relationships Australia and the National Missing Persons Coordination Centre are working together to provide counselling and relationship support to families and friends of missing persons living in Queensland (including Northern New South Wales) and the Australian Capital Territory (including Riverina and South Eastern New South Wales)

Tel: 1300 364 277

<http://www.raq.org.au>

SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army provides both a national and international family tracing service to locate family members (only) whose current whereabouts are unknown. The service also assists in reconciling any past differences and reuniting families.

Tel: (07) 3222 6661

<https://salvos.org.au/need-help/missing-persons/>

THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR GRIEF AND BEREAVEMENT

This centre is the leading agency for grief assistance in Australia and provides counselling, support and referrals to people who have lost a loved one.

<https://www.grief.org.au/>

Media

QUEENSLAND LAW REPORTER

Contact the Queensland Law Reporter to advertise your intention to apply for a grant of probate.

Tel: (07) 3236 1855

<http://www.queenslandreports.com.au/contacts/>

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