



## King County

Department of Executive Services

### **Inquest Program**

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## **GENERAL ORDER**

### **Effective January 30, 2024**

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An Inquest is not an adversarial proceeding. The following General Order is for the guidance of attorneys and parties. This General Order shall apply to all cases authorized under King County Executive Order PHL 7-1-5-EO and its successors.

#### **1. Pre-Hearing Conferences**

Pre-Hearing Conferences will be held virtually.

#### **2. Inquest Hearing**

Inquest Hearings will be held in person but may be held virtually in full or in part at the discretion of the Inquest Administrator and after consultation with the parties.

#### **3. Client Representation**

Attorneys will be provided discovery once they have confirmed representation of their client and filed a Notice of Appearance. If requested, the Inquest Program will provide any available potential contact information to an attorney seeking to confirm representation.

When an attorney represents more than one client in the same Inquest proceeding, the attorney shall file written confirmation that they have discussed potential conflicts with each client, and that each client waives any potential conflict(s).

#### **4. Pre-Hearing Subpoenas**

It is expected that the following persons will appear voluntarily for interview by counsel for the parties prior to the Inquest Hearing:

- a. The Chief of the applicable Law Enforcement Agency or designee(s) regarding applicable policies and training;
- b. The lead and/or forensic investigator(s);
- c. The medical examiner;
- d. Any experts who may be called as witnesses; and
- e. Any witnesses agreed to by the parties.

If any of the above-listed witnesses do not appear voluntarily for an interview, the Inquest Administrator may request that the King County Superior Court issue a subpoena to appear for a pre-hearing examination.

#### **5. Policy and Training Materials**

The Inquest Administrator will request that the employing law enforcement agency produce any policies in effect at the time of incident, as well as a list of all trainings completed by the Involved Officers. If such documents are not produced, the Inquest Administrator will request that King County Superior Court issue a subpoena to produce such documents for pre-hearing examination.

#### **6. Witnesses and Exhibits**

The Inquest Administrator will propose a list of the witnesses to be called and a list of exhibits to be presented during the Inquest Hearing, including admitted, marked and illustrative exhibits. All parties will be provided an opportunity to propose additions and deletions. After consideration of any such requests and prior to commencement of the Inquest Hearing, the Inquest Administrator will determine the witnesses to be subpoenaed and exhibits to be presented. Subsequent to that determination, witnesses and exhibits shall only be added pursuant to jury request or a showing of good cause.

#### **7. Photo of and Statement Regarding the Decedent**

The Family may propose a photo of the decedent and a statement regarding the decedent. All parties will have an opportunity to comment and recommend modification of the statement from the Family. Any Family statement or photo(s) of the decedent approved by the Inquest Administrator shall be published during the Opening Instructions to the jury at the Inquest Hearing. The jury shall be instructed that the statement is not evidence.

**8. Jury Venire**

The Inquest Program obtains jurors for Inquest panels from King County Superior Court and is guided by King County Superior Court policies. In King County Superior Court, the jury pool is divided into a Seattle jury assignment area (north of I-90 and all of the cities of Seattle, Mercer Island, Bellevue, Issaquah, North Bend, and Vashon and Maury Islands) and a Kent jury assignment area (south of I-90, except those cities included in the Seattle case assignment area). The Inquest Program will request jurors for each Inquest from either the Seattle assignment area or Kent assignment area, based on the location of the incident and death. If the location of the incident or death is in dispute, if relevant events took place in both the Seattle and Kent assignment areas, or upon a showing of good cause, the Inquest Administrator may request jurors from both jury assignment areas.

This General Order supersedes and replaces the General Order entered January 10, 2022.

DONE this 30th day of January, 2024.



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Marcine Anderson  
Inquest Administrator



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Julia Garratt  
Inquest Administrator



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Robert LeMcBeth  
Inquest Administrator Emeritus