

# Template letter to request an inquest is opened

Dear HM Coroner,

**Re: Request to hold an inquest into the death of [NAME OF DECEASED]**

**Born on [INSERT DECEASED'S DATE OF BIRTH] and who died on [INSERT DECEASED'S DATE OF DEATH]**

I am the **[INSERT RELATIONSHIP TO DECEASED eg SON, MOTHER, BROTHER ETC]** of the late **[INSERT NAME OF DECEASED]** and request that you consider opening an inquest into how they came about their death.

I believe an investigation is required to determine the cause of my **[STATE RELATIONSHIP EG BROTHER'S ETC]** death. Although to date no inquest has been opened, I have now received an investigation report completed by **[INSERT NAME OF TRUST]** which strongly suggests failings in the care provided. I respectfully invite you to consider opening an inquest as I have reason to believe that the death was not natural.

I understand that where there is reason to suspect that the death was unnatural that section 2(a) Coroners and Justice Act 2009 requires an investigation to be carried out by the coroner. I have read the reports, copies of which are enclosed/ attached from which it is apparent that failures in the care provided to my **[STATE RELATIONSHIP EG BROTHER]** contributed to his/her death.

I take this opportunity to draw to your attention the factors that I believe amount to a failure of care:

**INSERT LIST (IF THERE IS MORE THAN ONE PLEASE NUMBER THEM) OF FAILURES THAT YOU FEEL DIRECTLY CONTRIBUTED TO YOUR LOVED ONE'S CAUSE OF DEATH AND WHERE POSSIBLE CROSS REFER TO THE REPORTS AND OR OTHER DOCUMENTS YOU ARE RELYING ON].**

It does appear that these failures in care at the very least give rise to a reasonable suspicion that their death was unnatural' and as such there are grounds to open an inquest.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours Sincerely,

**[INSERT YOUR NAME]**

AvMA is the charity for patient safety and justice. We provide specialist advice and support to people when things go wrong in healthcare and campaign to improve patient safety and justice.

For advice and information visit  
**[www.avma.org.uk](http://www.avma.org.uk)**

Or call our helpline  
10am-3.30pm Monday-Friday  
(03 calls cost no more than calls to geographic numbers (01 or 02) and must be included in inclusive minutes or there can be a cost per minute)

**0345 123 2352**



82 Tanner Street  
London SE1 3GN



[www.facebook.com/AvMAuk](https://www.facebook.com/AvMAuk)



[www.instagram.com/AvMAuk](https://www.instagram.com/AvMAuk)



@AvMAuk



[bit.ly/AvMAYouTube](https://bit.ly/AvMAYouTube)

Be part of the movement for better  
patient safety and justice

Support  
**AvMA's work**  
today



## You can help make healthcare safer and fairer for all

Our vision is a simple: **People who suffer avoidable medical harm get the support and the outcomes they need.**

This vision is underpinned by four objectives, we believe, will transform trust in the NHS and healthcare generally and significantly cut the cost – financial and human – which is incurred annually in settling legal claims as well as dealing with the human costs associated with traumatic medical injuries and death. Our four key objectives are:

- To expand the range of communities we serve and so enabling more people experiencing avoidable harm to access services from us that meet their needs
- To empower more people to secure the outcomes they need following an incident of medical harm, whilst providing caring and compassionate support
- To eliminate compounded harm following avoidable medical harm
- To have the necessary diversity of sustainable resources and capacities to deliver

## Ongoing donation from as little as £5 a month could go a long way:

**£5/month** could provide vital advice to patients and families via our helpline

**£10/month** could help train a volunteer helpline advisor

**£50/month** could help support a family through an inquest hearing

## Your help could make a real difference to patient safety in the UK

Please donate today at [www.avma.org.uk/donate](http://www.avma.org.uk/donate)

**avma**  
action *against* medical accidents

The **charity** for  
patient safety and justice

AvMA is the charity for patient safety and justice. We provide specialist advice and support to people when things go wrong in healthcare and campaign to improve patient safety and justice.

For advice and information visit  
**[www.avma.org.uk](http://www.avma.org.uk)**

Or call our helpline  
10am–3.30pm Monday–Friday  
(03 calls cost no more than calls to geographic numbers (01 or 02) and must be included in inclusive minutes or there can be a cost per minute)

**0345 123 2352**



82 Tanner Street  
London SE1 3GN



[www.facebook.com/AvMAuk](https://www.facebook.com/AvMAuk)



[www.instagram.com/AvMAuk](https://www.instagram.com/AvMAuk)



@AvMAuk



[bit.ly/AvMAYouTube](https://bit.ly/AvMAYouTube)

Registered charity in England & Wales  
(299123) and Scotland (SCO39683)