

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

Coroners Ordinance (Chapter 504)

PLACES FOR AUTOPSIES (AMENDMENT) ORDER 2011

INTRODUCTION

The Secretary for Food and Health has made the Places for Autopsies (Amendment) Order 2011 (Amendment Order) at **Annex** under section 5(1)(a) of the Coroners Ordinance (Cap. 504) to add “Pok Oi Hospital Mortuary” to and delete “Castle Peak Hospital Mortuary”, “Kowloon Hospital Mortuary” and “Kwai Chung Hospital Mortuary” from the list of mortuaries prescribed in the Schedule to the Places for Autopsies Order (Cap. 504 sub. leg. A) for the reception of dead bodies for the purpose of autopsies.

JUSTIFICATIONS

2. Section 5(1)(a) of the Coroners Ordinance (Cap. 504) provides that the Secretary for Food and Health may, by order published in the Gazette, set apart places to be mortuaries for the reception of dead bodies for the purpose of autopsies.

Pok Oi Hospital Mortuary

3. At present, Tuen Mun Hospital Mortuary is the only mortuary that has autopsy facility in the New Territories West cluster of the Hospital Authority (HA). HA proposes that the existing Pok Oi Hospital Mortuary be used for the purpose of autopsies so that the two mortuaries could backup each other in the cluster.

Kowloon Hospital Mortuary, Castle Peak Hospital Mortuary and Kwai Chung Hospital Mortuary

4. The old Kowloon Hospital Mortuary, which had autopsy facility, was demolished in the 1960's. Mortuary services and performance of autopsies at the Kowloon Hospital had since been transferred to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. In 2003, Kowloon Hospital

set up a new mortuary for the storage of dead bodies, but it does not have any autopsy facility.

5. Meanwhile, the Castle Peak Hospital Mortuary and Kwai Chung Hospital Mortuary were already closed in August 2005 and July 2004 respectively due to low utilization.

THE AMENDMENT ORDER

6. The Amendment Order updates the Schedule to the Places for Autopsies Order (Cap. 504 sub. leg. A) by adding “Pok Oi Hospital Mortuary” to and deleting “Castle Peak Hospital Mortuary”, “Kowloon Hospital Mortuary” and “Kwai Chung Hospital Mortuary” from the list of mortuaries prescribed in that Schedule for the reception of dead bodies for the purpose of autopsies. Subject to negative vetting by the Legislative Council, the Amendment Order will come into operation on 8 July 2011.

LEGISLATIVE TIMETABLE

7. The legislative timetable is as follows –

Publication in the Gazette	13 May 2011
Tabling at the LegCo	18 May 2011

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

8. The Amendment Order is in conformity with the Basic Law, including the provisions concerning human rights. It will not affect the current binding effect of the principal Ordinance, and has no civil service, economic, productivity, environmental or sustainability implications.

9. For Pok Oi Hospital Mortuary, the hardware for autopsy facility is already in place and the funding requirements arising from the implementation of the proposal will be absorbed from within the existing resources of HA. As for Kowloon Hospital Mortuary, Castle Peak Hospital Mortuary and Kwai Chung Hospital Mortuary, either the mortuary itself or the autopsy facility has already ceased operation years ago. The proposal to delete the above three places for the conduct of autopsies will not have any impact on the capacity of mortuaries in public hospitals.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

10. The proposed legislative amendments will not have particular implications on general medical services to the public and will not give rise to major public concerns. We have not therefore conducted public consultation on the proposed changes.

PUBLICITY

11. A spokesman will be made available to answer enquiries.

ENQUIRIES

12. Any enquiry on this brief can be addressed to Miss Florence Lo, Assistant Secretary for Food and Health, at 2973 8221.

**Food and Health Bureau
Hospital Authority
May 2011**

Places for Autopsies (Amendment) Order 2011

(Made by the Secretary for Food and Health under section 5(1)(a) of the Coroners Ordinance (Cap. 504))

1. Commencement

This Order comes into operation on 8 July 2011.

2. Places for Autopsies Order amended

The Places for Autopsies Order (Cap. 504 sub. leg. A) is amended as set out in section 3.

3. Schedule substituted

The Schedule—

Repeal the Schedule

Substitute

“Schedule [s. 2]

1. Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital Mortuary, Tai Po
2. Caritas Medical Centre Mortuary
3. Fu Shan Public Mortuary
4. Grantham Hospital Mortuary
5. Kowloon Public Mortuary
6. Kwai Chung Public Mortuary

7. Kwong Wah Hospital Mortuary
8. North District Hospital Mortuary
9. Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital Mortuary
10. Pok Oi Hospital Mortuary
11. Prince of Wales Hospital Mortuary
12. Princess Margaret Hospital Mortuary
13. Queen Elizabeth Hospital Mortuary
14. Queen Mary Hospital Mortuary
15. Ruttonjee Hospital Mortuary
16. Tseung Kwan O Hospital Mortuary
17. Tuen Mun Hospital Mortuary
18. United Christian Hospital Mortuary, Kwun Tong
19. Victoria Public Mortuary
20. Yan Chai Hospital Mortuary”.

Secretary for Food and Health

28.4.2011

Explanatory Note

The Schedule to the Places for Autopsies Order (Cap. 504 sub. leg. A) contains a list of mortuaries for the reception of dead bodies for the purpose of autopsies. This Order updates that Schedule by adding "Pok Oi Hospital Mortuary" to and deleting "Castle Peak Hospital Mortuary", "Kowloon Hospital Mortuary" and "Kwai Chung Hospital Mortuary" from the list, and opportunity is also taken to tidy up the sequence of arrangement of the mortuaries within the list.