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| **Key People(s)** | **What do they do?** | **How do they carry out their role?** | **What to ask or tell them?** |
| Whānau Family | Choose a lead whānau member to   * Be a first point of contact for professionals involved * Ask for clear processes * Ask questions for the whānau * Communicate back to whānau | * Supportive to whānau pani * Readily available and active * Easily contactable * Clear communications * Identify key whānau members for different tasks |  |
| Pirihimana Police  www.police.govt.nz | * A go between that acts on behalf of the coroner * There will be an investigating officer | * Investigates circumstances around the death. * Communicates with whānau to ensure they are kept informed | Let police know who the key whānau contact is. **Ask**   * What happens now? * Who is the key police contact? * Who can go with the body? |
| Tākuta Doctor | Provides sign off for the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD) needed before burial/cremation | Certifying cause of death.  If unable to certify, they refer to a police officer or coroner | * Had they been unwell recently? * Had they been to the doctor recently? |
| Kaitirotiro Tūpāpaku Coroner  Phone the National Initial Investigation Office (NIIO) on **0800 266 800** (day or night) for info about processes on a recent death **Email:** [NIIO@justice.govt.nz](mailto:NIIO@justice.govt.nz) | * Confirms identity of deceased * Assesses information/evidence form police * Clarifies and confirms cause of death (e.g. hereditary, injury, unexpected, no obvious cause, suicide, toxicology * Decides whether a post-mortem is needed | * Works with police, whānau and pathologist * Decides whether to have an inquiry * Opens an inquiry * Orders a post-mortem (autopsy) * Directs release of body | You will mostly talk to the coroner on the phone as they may not be based in your area   * What happens with tissue samples? * What is the process for an autopsy? * If I want samples returned what is the process? |
| Kaiwhakatewhatewha  Tūpāpaku  Pathologist | Performs the post-mortem (autopsy) at designated hospital (a regional service not available in every town) to figure out the medical cause of death  Forensic pathologists deal with complex or suspicious circumstances | By examining the deceased to determine cause of death and provide a report to the coroner. They may take tissue samples. | You can ask for a copy of the pathologist’s report. Some exceptions apply e.g. forms that are part of a police investigation. |