

Dr. D.J. GOODING, J.P.  
H.M. Coroner  
for Western District of East Sussex



SOUTHOVER GRANGE  
SOUTHOVER ROAD  
LEWES  
EAST SUSSEX BN7 1TP  
Tel. Lewes 479696  
(Home: Lewes) GRO-C

17th April 1989

19 APR 1989

Dear Ted

One of the Registrars telephoned me today because she had discovered that a death had been registered and that although the deceased had Aids this was not recorded and apparently the Doctor certifying the death had been told by a Consultant not to put it on.

I understand that a habit has developed of certificates being issued giving a cause of death and at a later date a further certificate showing that Aids was present is sent to the Registrar General direct.

I am greatly concerned at this practice because although Aids is not notifiable to the Coroner I consider that all those handling the body, specifically the Funeral Directors' staff, must be made aware of the presence of the disease. I think it is approaching the criminal, and is certainly highly irresponsible, if such people are not told of the possible risk.

The reason behind all this is presumably to shield the family but it seems to me that they should have been made aware of the problem during the lifetime of the departed relative, if only for their own protection.

I have spoken to a Home Office official about it and he appears to know of the problem but was going to talk to his colleagues at the DHSS to find out their views.

Yours

GRO-C

(D J Gooding)

Dr E J King  
Chairman  
East Sussex Local Medical Committee  
86 High Street  
LEWES  
East Sussex