

[AS INTRODUCED]

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Require the coroner or jury at an inquest to record an opinion as to gambling addiction and any other relevant factors in a case of death by suicide; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Requirement to record relevant factors in cases of suicide

- (1) In section 10 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 (determinations and findings after inquest), after subsection (3) insert—

“(4) Coroners rules may provide for the coroner or jury, in the case of a determination of suicide under subsection (1)(a), to record an opinion as to any factors which were relevant to the death.”

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- (2) In section 5 of that Act (matters to be ascertained), in subsection (3), after “to” insert “section 10(4) and”.

- (3) In the Coroners (Inquests) Rules 2013 (S.I. 2013/1616), after Rule 34 insert the following new rule—

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“35 Determination of suicide: relevant factors

- (1) In the case of a determination of suicide under section 5(1)(b) of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, the coroner or jury must record, in such form as the coroner may determine, an opinion as to any factors which were relevant to the death.

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- (2) The factors which the coroner or jury must consider in reaching an opinion under paragraph (1) include whether the deceased had an addiction to gambling.

- (3) The coroner may disclose information derived from records made under paragraph (1) to such persons or organisations involved in the provision of care or support to vulnerable persons as the coroner considers appropriate.

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- (4) Information may not be disclosed under paragraph (3) in such a way that the identity of the deceased is specified or capable of being deduced.”
- (4) The amendment made by subsection (3) does not affect the power to make further Rules or regulations amending the provision made by that amendment. 5

2 Extent, commencement and short title

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales only.
- (2) This Act comes into force at the end of the period of two months beginning with the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Coroners (Determination of Suicide) Act 2021. 10

Coroners (Determination of Suicide) Bill [HL]

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The Lord Bishop of St Albans

Ordered to be Printed, 9th June 2021.

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