

Inquests – A practical guide

Karl Hirst

No5
BARRISTERS
CHAMBERS



IT'S WHAT YOU
LEARN AFTER YOU
KNOW IT ALL THAT
COUNTS.



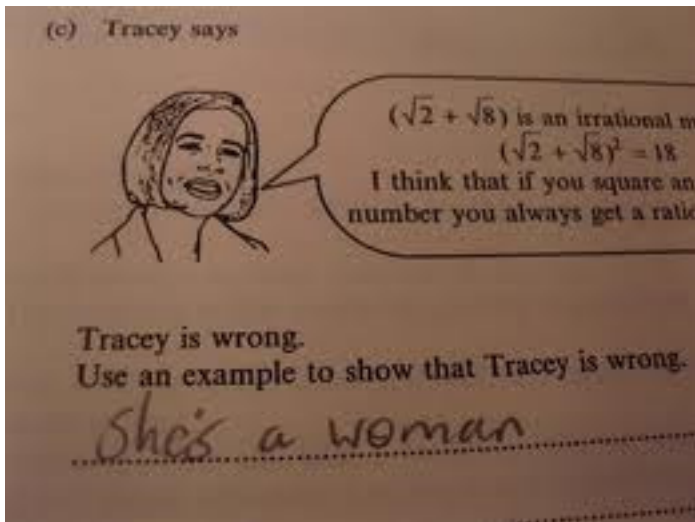
QuoteHD.com

John Wooden
American basketball player
(1910-2010)

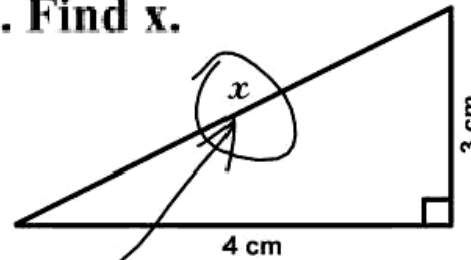
“...the coroner frequents more public houses than any man alive. The smell of sawdust, beer, tobacco-smoke, and spirits, is inseparable in his vocation from death in its most awful shapes”.

Charles Dickens, Bleak House

What is it all about?

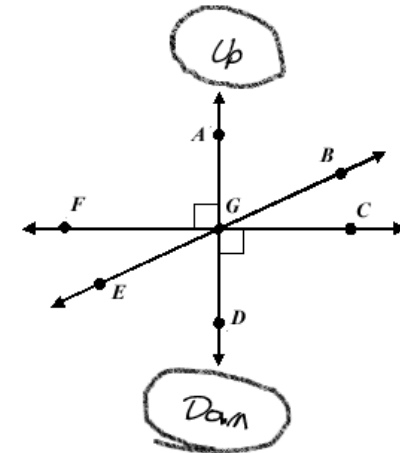


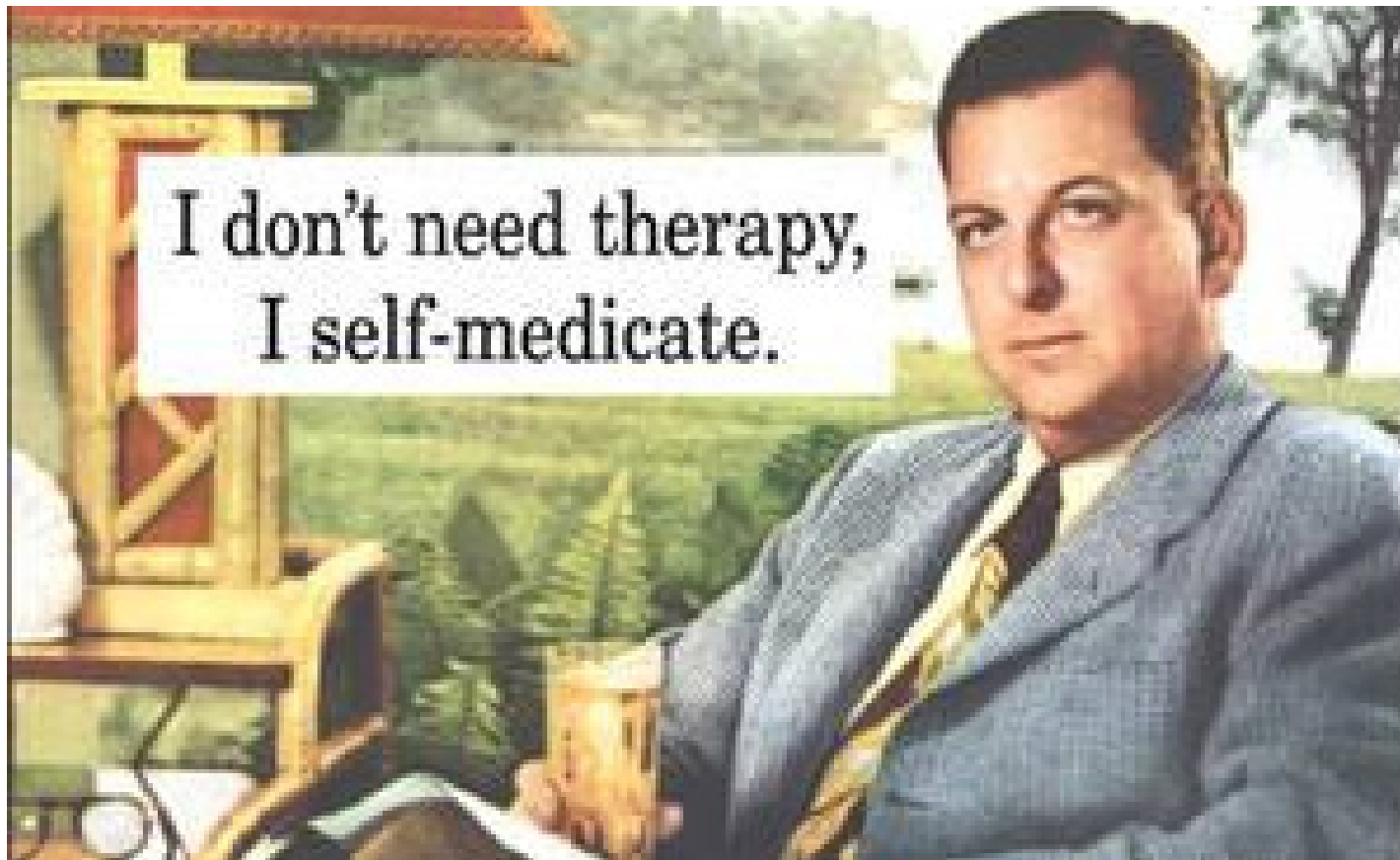
3. Find x .

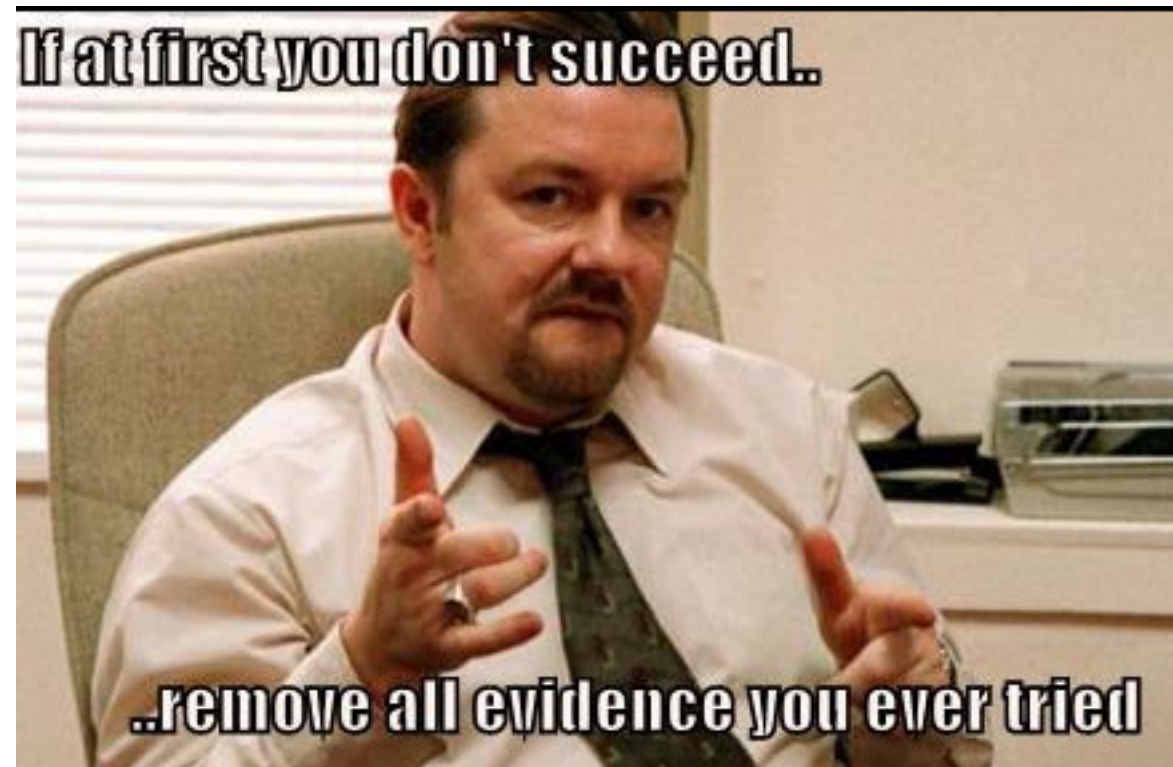


Here it is

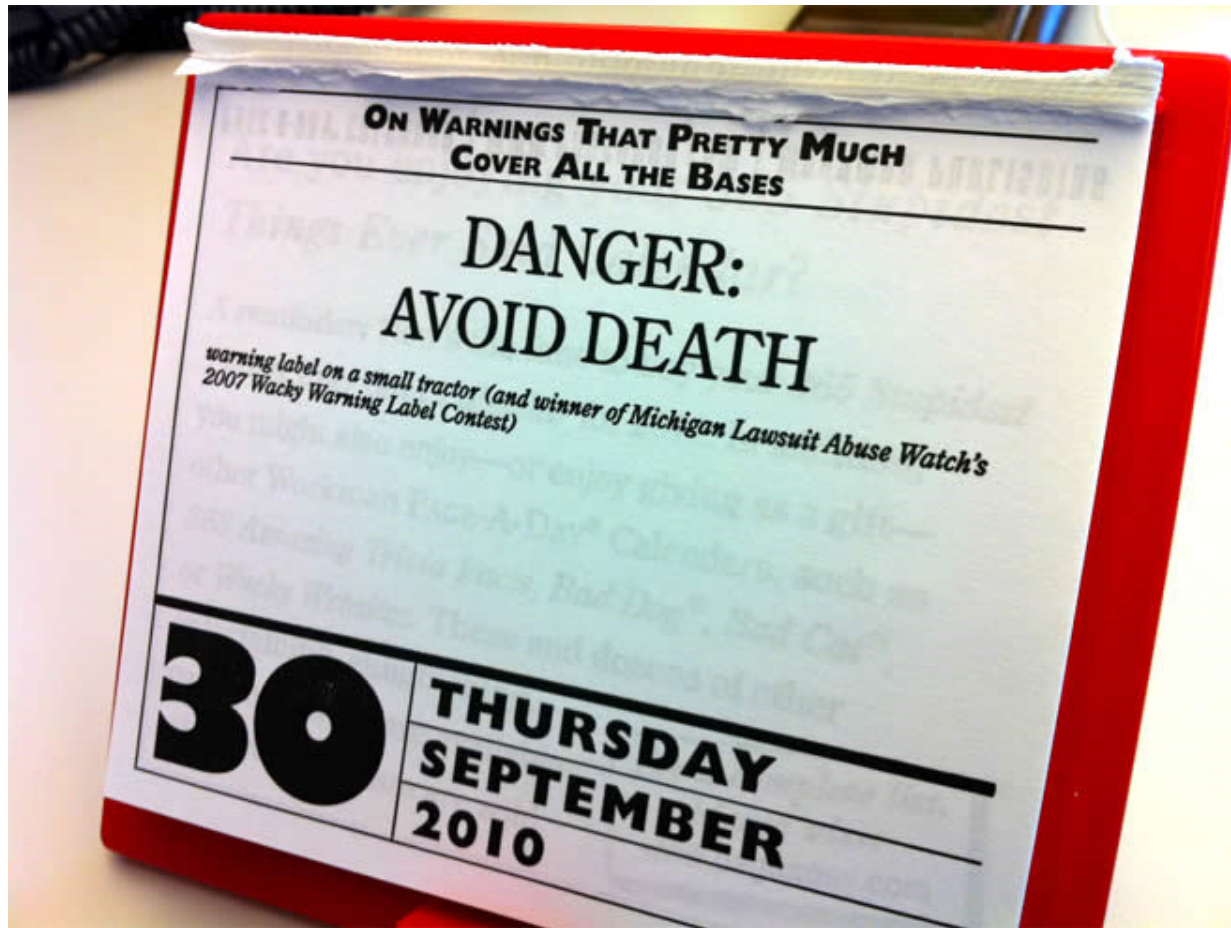
1. Name a pair of vertical angles:







PFDs



The best 'line' with a coroner

- Understanding their position.
- Unfailing politeness.
- Confidence in your position.

The PIR

- Scope of the inquest
- Ex Parte Jamieson [1995] QB 1 “full, fair and fearless investigation” of facts
- Complete witness list (ask for one) (wide discretion)
- Which witnesses are to give live evidence (read only if uncontroversial)
- Expert evidence
- Disclosure
- Bundles, facilities
- Skeleton arguments

The Inquest and the Family

- Managing expectations is critical
- Who, when, where and how?
- Not permitted to address the Coroner as to fact
- No civil or criminal liability
- Think about the press release and comment

The System



Thank you!

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