



hurley group

Bereavement Information Sheet

<https://www.gov.uk/after-a-death>

The doctors and staff at the practice would like to offer our sincere condolences to you and your family on your loss. Unfortunately, at this very distressing time, there are many decisions and arrangements which need to be made, for which you might need information and we hope that this information may be helpful for you at this time.

3 things you need to do in the first few days after the death

- 1) Get a medical certificate from the GP or Hospital so you can register the death
- 2) Register the death within 5 days, so that you can get the documents you need to arrange the funeral
- 3) Arrange the funeral, which you can either do yourself or contact a funeral director to do that with you

1) Get a medical certificate

If the death occurred at home and your GP attended to confirm the death, then the practice can issue this for you.

If the death occurred in hospital you will need to collect this from the hospital.

If the death was unexpected or unexplained it will be referred to the coroner and the coroner's office will contact you directly to explain what the next steps will be.

2) Register the death with the local registrar

Once you have received the medical certificate you can register the death.

You can find the details for your local registrar at <https://www.gov.uk/register-offices>

You will need to provide the following information:

- Date and place of death
- Full name and surname, including maiden name if applicable, and any other names by which the deceased was known
- Date and place of birth
- Occupation
- Usual address
- Medical Certificate of Cause of Death

If you also have their Medical Card or Birth Certificate it would be useful to take those as well.

If you call and make an appointment in advance it will mean you can be seen promptly when you arrive which may be easier for you.

The Death Certificates

You will be given two documents by the registrar

i) Certificate for Burial or Cremation (green form)

This Certificate should be given to the funeral director to enable the funeral to take place.

ii) Certificate of Registration of Death (BD8-white form)

This is a certified copy of the death entry in the register and proves that the death has been registered. These have to be purchased.

It is important to ask for additional copies of the death certificate if it is possible that the person's estate will have to go through probate. Even if you do not need probate you will need to have a copy of the death certificate for each asset holder, e.g. for each bank or building society where there are accounts, each pension or insurance policy. Without a sufficient number of death certificates, sorting out the estate takes longer, and extra certificates are more expensive to purchase at a later stage.

Photocopies of the certificate are not normally accepted for legal, financial and insurance companies and are a breach of copyright.

3) Arrange the funeral

You can either use a funeral director or arrange the funeral yourself.

If you use a funeral director who is a member of the National Association of Funeral Directors (NAFD) or The National Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors (SAIF) you will know that they have to adhere to a code of practice and that they must give you a price list when asked

<http://nafd.org.uk/funeral-advice/find-a-member/>

<http://saif.org.uk/members-search/>

Support Agencies

Cruse - <https://www.cruse.org.uk/>

Exists to promote the well-being of bereaved people and to enable anyone bereaved by death to understand their grief and cope with their loss. Provides counselling and support and offers information, advice, education and training services.

National Association of Widows <http://www.nawidows.org.uk/>

A self-help organisation, run by widows, for widows, that offers comfort, friendship and a listening ear to widows and unmarried women who have lost a partner through bereavement.

Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society (SANDS) <https://www.sands.org.uk>

A national charity, established by bereaved parents which aims to support anyone affected by the death of a baby. It works in partnership with health professionals to improve the quality of care and services offered to bereaved families and to promote research and changes in practice that could help to reduce the loss of babies' lives.

Age Concern <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/>

Age UK is a registered charity in the United Kingdom, formed in 2009, which combines the operations of the previously separate charities Age Concern and Help the Aged to form the UK's largest charity for older people. Offers a range of services including telephone advice, support to enable independent living and befriending services.