



## **What To Do When Someone Dies**

**This leaflet is about the practicalities of what  
to do when someone dies.**

**When someone close to you dies there are many decisions to make and practical arrangements that you need to put in place. This is often at a time when people are emotionally distressed. This leaflet provides some information about what needs to be done when someone dies.**

## ■ Step 1

Your Doctor, if not already aware of the death, needs to be informed that this has happened. The Doctor can come and certify the death plus give information about how to register the death.

## ■ Step 2

If this was an unexpected death or the deceased had not seen a Doctor within the last 14 days, it is necessary to contact the Doctor who will also notify the police. This means that the Coroner will be informed by the Doctor. The Coroner will then decide if there needs to be a post mortem or an inquest.

## ■ Step 3

Once a medical certificate, which shows the cause of death has been issued, a Funeral Director can be contacted and they will take the deceased person to the chapel of rest at the funeral home. At this stage it may be helpful for the Funeral Director to know of any wishes of the deceased or of any cultural or religious beliefs.



## ■ Step 4

The death has to be registered within 5 days of the death and a death certificate issued. In the case of an unexpected death, registration cannot take place until investigations by the Coroner have been completed. After registration, the Registrar will issue a Certificate of Burial or Cremation which is to be given to the Funeral Director.

## ■ Safe disposal of medication

When someone dies it is important that their medicines are disposed of safely. You should return any medicines to your local community pharmacy for safe disposal. The Pharmacist is obliged to check if you are returning “controlled drugs” (e.g. Morphine) as they must record any returned controlled drugs before disposing of them.

## ■ What other help is available?

Further information can be found in this useful leaflet which can be downloaded: What to do after a death in England and Wales  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-to-do-after-a-death-in-england-or-wales-leaflet>



## ■ Your feelings

Following a death it can be helpful for some people to talk about their feelings with someone in the family or a friend. It can also be helpful to speak to someone who has not been involved in the death so closely. There are a range of services that provide this kind of bereavement support and counselling, these include:

### **Cruse Bereavement Care**

North Suffolk and Great Yarmouth

**Tel: 01502 722234**

### **Great Yarmouth and Waveney Bereavement Counselling Service**

James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

**Tel: 01493 452804**

### **Nelson's Journey**

Norwich based charity which supports children and young people following a bereavement.

Bradbury Building - Smiles House, Octagon Business Park,  
Hospital Road, Little Plumstead, Norwich NR13 5FH

**Tel: 01603 431788 E-mail: [enquiries@nelsonsjourney.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@nelsonsjourney.org.uk)**

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**If you want to speak to  
someone or request this  
in another format, please  
call 01502 719582**

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