

Support sheet 9



What to do when someone dies

- Offer comfort and support to those present at the death
- Allow time with the deceased or an alternative quiet room if preferred
- If the next of kin is not present they will need to be informed as soon as possible
- Have the next of kin left instructions on how and when they would like to be informed?
- Provide information to the next of kin on what to do next

- Inform the GP who cared for the person or Out of Hours service
- If this was an expected death the doctor will come to certify the death
- The doctor will provide a medical certificate of cause of death plus information on how to register the death

- If this was an **unexpected death** or the deceased has not seen a doctor within the last 14 days contact the persons GP. The police must also be informed
- In the case of an unexpected death the coroner will be informed by the GP
- The GP will write on the formal notice that they have referred the death to the coroner
- A decision may then be made by the coroner to carry out a post mortem or inquest
- The Coroner will then make the decision to release the deceased to the funeral director.

- In the case of an **expected death**, once the death has been verified the funeral director can be contacted and the deceased taken to the funeral home
- It would be helpful to know of any expressed wishes of the deceased and to be aware of any cultural or religious beliefs

- After a death certificate has been issued, registration of the death should be done within 5 days
- In the case of an unexpected death registration cannot take place until investigations by the coroner are completed
- After registration the registrar will issue a certificate of burial or cremation which is to be given to the funeral director

What to do after death in England and Wales

<https://www.gov.uk/>