

25. WHAT TO DO AFTER A DEATH

When someone dies there are many decisions and arrangements to be made and unfortunately these often have to be made at a time of personal distress.

Practical advice and support may be provided by friends, family, doctor, nurse, solicitor, minister of religion or anyone involved with you or the person who has died. The Funeral Director can also explain about arrangements that have to be made. Citizens Advice Bureaux can provide confidential, independent advice and information on all aspects of the situation.



Benefits Enquiry Line

There is a useful booklet entitled "What to do After a Death" available from the Benefits Enquiry Line. This gives clear information about what to do and about the help that is available, including information about organisations that can offer support and a chance to talk. For a copy of this leaflet, tel: 0800 882200.

Registering a Death

A death must be registered within 5 working days (unless the Registrar says this period may be exceeded). If a death has been referred to a coroner, it cannot be registered until the Registrar has received authority from the coroner. If the person died at home their GP will certify the cause of death and give you a Medical Certificate and Formal Notice telling you how to register the death.

If the person died in hospital, the hospital will issue the certificate. When you go to the Registrar you should take the Medical Certificate, Birth and Marriage Certificates and the medical card of the deceased if possible.

The Registrar will give you a form for the Funeral Director (unless the coroner is involved) and a form for the Department of Social Security so that pensions, allowances, benefits can be stopped or changed as appropriate.

There is a charge for each copy of the Death Certificate you may need.

Registrar for Births and Deaths - Chichester,
Greyfriars, 61 North Street, Chichester, PO19 1NB. Tel: 01243 782723
Registrar for Births and Deaths – Bognor Regis
Health Centre, West Street, Bognor Regis, PO21 1UT. Tel: 01243 642210
Registrar for Births and Deaths – Midhurst
Capron House, North Street, Midhurst, GU29 9XX. Tel: 01730 813245

Note: Arundel is served by the Worthing office:
Registrar for Births and Deaths,
Centenary House, Durrington Lane, Worthing, BN13 2QB. Tel: 01903 839007