



## High Street Surgery

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### *In Times of Bereavement*

We are sorry to hear of your loss. The following is a help sheet which we hope will be helpful with regards to some of the practicalities at this difficult time. Your Doctor is available to speak to, or see you, if you need to talk about an aspect of your bereavement. Please do not hesitate to contact the surgery.

#### **Medical Certificate**

If someone dies in the community a Doctor from High Street Surgery will sign a medical certificate confirming the cause of death unless it is deemed necessary to refer the death to the Coroner. A death is reported to the Coroner if it is sudden or unusual and in some cases a post mortem may be requested followed by an inquest. Please do not be alarmed if this occurs, it is a normal legal requirement and the coroner's office should be able to answer any questions you may have.

The medical certificate contains confidential information, this should be handed to the Registrar within five days of the death unless it has been referred to the coroner.

The Registrar will require the following information along with the medical certificate of cause of death:

- Date and place of death and usual address
- Full name, including maiden name if applicable and any other names by which the deceased was known.
- Date and place of birth
- Occupation
- Whether he / she was receiving pension / allowance from public funds
- Details of any surviving spouse or civil partner

To ensure that you are seen promptly it is suggested that an appointment is made to see the registrar. The registrar will provide you with two documents: a certificate for burial or cremation and a certificate of registration of death.

#### **Certificate for Burial or Cremation (green form)**

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

#### **Certificate of Registration of Death (white form)**

This certificate is for social security purposes. Please complete the form and return to the Benefits Agency.

You may also need to purchase death certificates. A death certificate is a certified copy of the entry in the register of deaths. It is subject to crown copyright and so cannot be photocopied. A death certificate may be required by a number of agencies such as solicitors, financial organisations, or for pensions and insurance claims you may therefore wish to purchase several copies at the time of registration.

## **The Staffordshire Registration Office:**

Tel: **0300 111 8001** with Telephone Opening times: 8am until 6pm. Registration office is open 9am-5pm.

Nearest: Cannock Registration Office, Cannock Chase Council Offices, Beecroft Road, Cannock, WS11 1BG

Email: [Registrarsenquiries@Staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Registrarsenquiries@Staffordshire.gov.uk) Fax: 01785 276 026 Minicom: 01785 276 207

Further information is available on [Staffordshire.gov.uk](http://Staffordshire.gov.uk) website.

## **Who to inform about the death:**

- If the deceased held a driving licence this will need to be returned to the DVLA.
- If the deceased owned a passport this will need to be returned to the UK Passport Agency.
- Personal or occupational pension schemes and the tax office.
- Bank and building society and any mortgage provider, housing association or council housing office.
- Employer or trade union.
- Social services (if the deceased was receiving any community care services or equipment).
- Their energy and telephone suppliers.

## **Organisations offering bereavement support and advice:**

**Bereavement Advice Centre Helpline: 0800 6349494 ([www.bereavementadvice.org](http://www.bereavementadvice.org))**

Supports bereaved on a range of practical issues via a single Freephone number including registering a death and finding a funeral director through to tax and benefits enquiries. (Open 9am-5pm Mon-Fri)

**Child Bereavement UK Support line: 0800 02 888 40 ([www.childbereavementuk.org](http://www.childbereavementuk.org))**

A national charity which helps grieving families and the professionals who care for them.

**Cruse Bereavement Care Helpline: 0808 808 1677 ([www.cruse.org.uk](http://www.cruse.org.uk))**

Helps to support those bereaved by death to understand their grief and cope with their loss. They provide counselling, advice and information and training services.

**Samaritans Helpline: 116 123 (free from any phone) ([email jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org))**

National organisation offering support to those feeling suicidal, despairing or need someone to talk to.

**The Way Foundation Telephone: 0870 011 3450 ([www.widowedandyoung.org.uk](http://www.widowedandyoung.org.uk))**

They are an organisation for people who have become widows or widowers at a young age. The Foundation has support groups and their website has links to other relevant sites .

**Winston's Wish Helpline: 08088 020 021 (website [www.winstonswish.org.uk](http://www.winstonswish.org.uk))**

Gives support to those caring for children affected by the death of a parent or a sibling and to the children themselves.

***Please do not hesitate to contact the surgery for any further advice and support.***