

A timeline of what to do when someone dies

When a loved one dies, knowing what you need to do can help ease some of the stress or confusion you may feel.

Use this timeline to help you plan each step accordingly.



Time of death / day 1 after death



As soon as someone dies, you should call a doctor. They'll be able to issue a Medical Certificate of Cause of Death and will be on hand to answer your questions.

Then you will need to find and choose a Funeral Director.

You can arrange for them to collect the deceased and bring them into their care.



The next step is to register the death



You must register the death in the country where your loved one died.

You'll need to find a register office in the area where the death occurred and make an appointment.

You'll also need to bring certain documents with you, such as the deceased's passport and birth certificate.

If your loved one dies abroad, you'll need to follow the steps of repatriation.

For a full list of everything you need, see this dedicated page on [how to register a death](#).

COSTS

Registering a death is free, but you'll need to pay for Death Certificates:

ENGLAND & WALES	NORTHERN IRELAND	SCOTLAND
£11	£8	£10

These costs are at the time of registration.

If you live in **England, Wales and Northern Ireland**, you have **5 days** to register a death.

If you live in **Scotland**, you have **8 days** to register a death.



Funeral arrangements



Start making funeral arrangements with your chosen Funeral Director. You'll need to consider the type of funeral, coffin, travel arrangements, and other details such as flowers and readings.

A good Funeral Director will guide you through the process, offering support whenever you and your family need it.

Find out more about arranging a funeral.

Let **Tell Us Once** know about the death within the first 2 weeks. They'll tell authorities and government services that your loved one has passed, rather than you having to contact each authority separately.

When it comes to telling close friends and family, take this at your own pace.

This may be something you do within the first 24 hours.



Handling the estate



When someone dies, their death is usually followed by the process of handling their estate.

If there's a will, the named "executor" deals with this. If there isn't a will, a relative appointed "administrator" deals with this.

You'll need to get in touch with:

- Financial offices such as bank/building society, mortgage/loan provider, pension company (if Tell Us Once hasn't already)
- Royal Mail
- Landlord (if they rented)
- Utility companies
- Their employer

The deceased's email and social media accounts will need to be dealt with too.

- Find out more information in this guide to **Death on Social Media**.
- Read this **guide to dealing with the estate of a deceased person** to find out more about this process.

You may require additional financial help with paying or reclaiming debts, life insurance claims, and if necessary, inheritance tax.

HMRC will be able to support you with this.

If you need further support with understanding what to do when someone dies, your local Funeral Director can help.

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL DIGNITY FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Call our friendly team on 0808 296 2773.
Or, you can make an enquiry online.



dignityfunerals.co.uk