



What to do if a relative dies at home.

When a death that was expected occurs at home or in a nursing home, the first point of call is the Doctor who treated the deceased during their final illness. The Doctor will need to issue a medical certificate outlining cause of death so that a Funeral Director can make the necessary arrangements.

What to do if a relative dies in hospital.

When a death occurs in hospital, a medical certificate outlining cause of death will be issued by the attending Doctor of the deceased. Discuss with ward staff how you can obtain this certificate. Hospitals should allow family members time to sit with the deceased prior to the deceased being removed to the mortuary from where they will be released to your chosen Funeral Director.

Please note in the event of a death in either the home, nursing home or hospital where the attending Doctor is unsure as to the cause of death, they will be required to call on the services of the Coroner, who in turn will make the decision on whether a post mortem is required or is satisfied as to the cause of death.

What to do if a relative dies abroad.

When a death occurs abroad, you should make contact with an Irish Embassy or Consulate to assist in making arrangements for the return of the remains to Ireland. You may also contact your Funeral Director at home for assistance as they can liaise on your behalf with a Funeral Director in the country the death occurred to ensure that all legal requirements and relevant death certificates are in order and issued.

Why do you need to register a death?

All deaths must be registered at any Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages office. This can only be done by a relative who knows the details in relation to the death. If there is no such relative, any person who was present at the death or in charge of premises where the death occurred or has any knowledge of the death may become a *qualified informant* as the person to register the death.

Where the death occurred due to an illness, the doctor who attended the deceased must complete the first section of the Death Notification Form and state cause of death. The second part of form must be completed by a relative or person capable of acting as qualified informant. This form must be registered within three months of the death and the Register of Deaths signed by a relative.

In the event where there are no known living relatives of the deceased, a representative of the hospital authorities, funeral director or qualified informant must complete the forms.

When registering a death you will require the following information:

- Full name and surname of deceased
- The deceased's Personal Public Service No
- Sex, Marital Status, Occupation and date of birth or age of the deceased
- Date and place of death
- If deceased is a child, the occupation of parent(s) or guardian(s)
- Medical Certificate of the cause of death

What is involved in organ donation?

In order for organs to be donated the deceased person must have died in hospital. Currently in Ireland, the deceased must have been in intensive care while on a life support machine. Where the deceased knowingly carried a organ donor card, the hospital will make contact with the next of kin before arranging the removal of organs for transplantation. Where no organ donor card was found or the deceased was too young to have one, the next of kin may still agree to organ donation. Further information can be obtained from the Irish Kidney Association www.ika.ie