

Death Certification and Registration During COVID-19 Pandemic Information for Next of Kin

Since publishing the 'Following a bereavement' booklet, as set out below, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some information has changed.

On March 26th 2020, provisions on remote registration of deaths and stillbirths in the UK Coronavirus Act 2020 came into force, to prevent unnecessary in-person contact at Registration Offices.

Confirmation of Death (Verification of Death/Pronouncing Life Extinct) in Scotland can be undertaken by any registered healthcare professional, trained and competent to do so. All deaths must be registered before a burial or cremation can take place.

Medical Certificate

Healthcare staff will ask the person's next of kin, or, the person who will be making the funeral arrangements which Registration Office they intend to deal with. A copy of the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD), or Certificate of Stillbirth will then be e-mailed to the Registrar. This secure email will include details of the deceased and contact details for the next of kin.

The next of kin will be given the Serial Number of the Death Certificate and can request an electronic copy of the Death Certificate by email if they wish to see it; **email is unsecure when being sent to a personal account outside public services**. The next of kin should email the following email address with the Serial Number of the Death Certificate, the deceased person's name and date of birth:

healthrecords.legalteam@nhs.net

We are unable to send a copy of the Death Certificate to the next of kin by post.

South Lanarkshire

The next of kin should call South Lanarkshire Council to arrange an appointment to register the death on telephone: 01698 452105

Monday – Thursday 08:45am – 4:45pm
Friday 08:45am – 4:15pm

North Lanarkshire and Glasgow

North Lanarkshire and Glasgow Registrar staff will contact the next of kin using the telephone number provided on/with the Death Certificate.

Monday – Thursday 08:45am - 4:30pm
Friday 08:45am – 4pm

1. Scottish Government Chief Medical Officer - 24 March 2020 - Guidance to Medical Practitioners for Death Certification during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
2. Scottish Government Health Protection Division – 3 April 2020 - Guidance for Medical Practitioners during the COVID-19 Pandemic – Electronic Transfer of Medical Certificates of Cause of Death (MCCD) from Health Services to Registrars and Next of Kin.

This sheet has been donated by RNS Publications, who understand it is distressing to deal with a bereavement.

Unsolicited mail can be insensitive and destructive during a grieving process, to reduce this, please visit stopmail.co.uk which has been provided to support you.