



What to do when someone dies

When someone dies there are certain practical things that must be attended to. At a time when relatives and friends are feeling shocked and saddened they may be called upon to make decisions and arrangements, perhaps for the first time.

This leaflet gives local information and should be read alongside the factsheet from Independent Age *What to do after a death* which is available to download at: www.independentage.org/get-advice/advice-guides-factsheets-leaflets/what-to-do-after-a-death or phone 0800 319 6789 to request a copy.

There is also a government website providing step by step advice at: www.gov.uk/when-someone-dies.

If the cause of death is clear the GP or hospital doctor will usually be able to sign a medical certificate stating the cause of death. This will be in a sealed envelope addressed to the Registrar. If a Sidmouth GP has signed the death certificate it can be collected from the Beacon Medical Centre and it is best to ring them on 01395 512601 to ensure it is ready.

In certain cases the death may be referred to a Coroner and the Coroner's office will contact the nearest relative with information about when arrangements for the funeral can proceed.

Deaths must be registered within five days and normally this has to be done in person however during the covid-19 pandemic different arrangements are in place. If there is a pre-paid funeral plan contact the funeral director; if not, appoint a funeral director and they will collect the deceased.

REGISTERING THE DEATH

Details of Registration Offices and the Coroner are at: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/registrationservice/deaths>

The Registrar's office for East Devon is:
East Devon Registration Office
East Devon Business Centre
Heathpark Way
Honiton EX14 1SF
Telephone: 0345 1551022
Email: srteign@devon.gov.uk

The Registration Office will provide a *Certificate for Burial or Cremation* and a *Certificate of Registration of Death*. The Registrar's office offers the 'Tell Us Once' service to inform local and central government agencies of the death.



FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

Once the death has been registered funeral arrangements can be made. The funeral director will need the *Certificate for Burial or Cremation* issued by the Registrar. It is important to find out if there is a will or a pre-payment funeral plan and if the deceased has left instructions or requests about the funeral arrangements.

LOCAL FUNERAL DIRECTORS (24 HOUR SERVICE)

Potbury's Funeral Service
111 High Street
Sidmouth EX10 8LB
01395 513355

Northcott Bros. Funeral Service
68 Temple Street
Sidmouth EX10 9BJ
01395 513207

F J Luxton & Son Funeral Services
21 Tip Hill
Ottery St Mary EX11 1BE
01404812646

Shoobridge Funeral Services
Park House, Silver Street
Honiton EX14 1QJ
01395 542170

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

Local organisations that support the bereaved include:

- Bereavement Social Group, Honiton
- Balloons, Exeter (children and families)
- CRUSE Bereavement Care Devon
- New Beginnings, Sidmouth
- New Friends, Honiton
- Sidmouth Hospiscare

Contact details and national organisations are listed on the Sid Valley Help website www.sidvalleyhelp.co.uk under the End of Life & Bereavement button.

Please phone us on 01395 892 011 for advice and information.