

I.C.MARK LTD

Serving the Local Community since 1972

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

THE REALITY OF DEATH

Many of us have difficulty in accepting the reality of death. When it happens to someone we care for the reality is all too vivid. When this tragic event happens in our lives and we are overwhelmed by grief, it is hard to know where to start with funeral arrangements.

Death generally falls into two categories: an expected death or a sudden death. If the death is expected the first call should be to a Funeral Director of your choice. From there they will contact the deceased's General Practitioner to ensure that this doctor is prepared to certify the cause of death onto the appropriate documentation, including a cremation certificate if required. Once these have been secured the family are able to meet with the Funeral Director to discuss funeral service requirements.

The Coroner may become involved when:

- A doctor is unavailable or unable to establish the cause of death.
- There has been no recent consultation with a medical practitioner
- There is a sudden unexpected death
- Death occurs from other than natural causes
- There is an accidental death.

When a sudden death occurs, the police will be called to the scene and will take the lead in managing the situation to begin initial enquiries and arrange for the transfer of the deceased to the nearest Coroner's Mortuary (usually located at a public hospital) for a post mortem examination. The transfer to the mortuary is usually conducted by the contracted Funeral Director. It is Police who will also ensure that the next of kin is notified and has support. You are able to use the Funeral Director of your choice once you have been notified and they will make contact with the coroner.

Victim Support may also offer to help you. They are a community-based organisation and are a good source of information about other community-based organisations and are a good source of information.



When a death is reported to the Coroner, it is the Coroner's role to establish the identity of the deceased and the cause of death. In most instances, this will be done by the instruction of a pathologist (a medical specialist) to examine the body. This procedure is called a post mortem examination or autopsy.

The role of the Coroner is to ensure that the identity of the deceased and that the cause of death is known, to establish when and where the person died and to understand the causes and circumstances of the death. At the end of this process the Coroner may make recommendations or comments that, if drawn to public attention, may reduce the occurrence of deaths in similar circumstances. After the cause of death has been established the deceased person is released into the care of the Funeral Director of your choice. During this time the Funeral Director will meet with the family to obtain death registration details, and take instructions for the funeral arrangements.

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