

# Help for you following a bereavement

We are very sorry for your loss; please accept our sympathy at this sad time.

The Bereavement booklet in this pack was designed prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, if your loved one has passed away due to COVID-19, please ensure you read this Covid-19 Bereavement guidance sheet alongside the booklet. You can find an electronic copy of the booklet and guidance sheet on our Chaplaincy webpage [www.humber.nhs.uk/chaplaincy-service.htm](http://www.humber.nhs.uk/chaplaincy-service.htm)

The following information on this sheet aims to help you deal with the temporary changes to bereavement practices that have been made due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope that you find this information useful during this difficult time.

## Notification of Death

The Medical Cause of Death Certificate (MCCD) will be issued by a doctor. You will need this in order to obtain a death certificate from the Registrar's Office. The hospital doctors cannot issue a medical certificate of the cause of death if the coroner wishes to investigate the death.

During the COVID-19 outbreak you are not able to collect the MCCD in person. Instead, the document will be scanned and emailed by the doctor to the registration office.

## Registering the death

The death should be registered within five days of its occurrence unless the death has been or needs to be reported to the coroner.

Due to COVID-19, registration offices are closed for face to face appointments. Councils across the UK are offering appointments to register a death over the telephone. Please contact your local Council for more information.

East Riding of Yorkshire Council  
01482 393939  
[eastriding.gov.uk/living/deaths/registration](http://eastriding.gov.uk/living/deaths/registration)

Hull City Council  
01482 300300  
[hull.gov.uk/communities-and-living/births-and-deaths/death-registration](http://hull.gov.uk/communities-and-living/births-and-deaths/death-registration)

North Yorkshire County Council  
01609 780780  
[northyorks.gov.uk/registering-death](http://northyorks.gov.uk/registering-death)



## New advice for safe funerals

To help reduce the risk of spreading the infection, the Government have advised funeral directors and faith leaders to restrict the number of mourners who attend funerals, so a safe distance of at least 2 metres (3 steps) can be maintained between individuals. Only members of the deceased person's household or close family members should attend funerals. Any individual displaying symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend. Those who do attend will need to adhere to social distancing at all times, including when travelling to and from the funeral.

In addition, the guidance advises that since there is a small but real risk of transmission from the body of a deceased person, mourners are strongly advised not to take part in any rituals or practices that bring them into close contact with the body of a person who has died from or with symptoms of COVID-19. Practices that involve close personal contact with the deceased should only be carried out using the correct personal protective equipment (PPE)\*.

These new guidelines should be discussed with you by your funeral director or faith leader when arranging the funeral.

## Useful information

Please refer to our Bereavement booklet for other practical arrangements that you will need to make at this difficult time.



\* Information taken from [gov.uk/government/news/new-advice-for-safe-funerals-after-discussions-with-faith-leaders](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-advice-for-safe-funerals-after-discussions-with-faith-leaders)