

Your Legal Questions

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Q. I need to register my dad's death - how do I go about it?

A. The death must be registered with the Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths for the district where the death occurred within five days of the death unless it has been referred to the Coroner. If your dad died locally the appropriate Registry Office is at Boulevard Weston super Mare. It operates an appointments system and it is advisable to telephone beforehand.

This is the information the registrar will need:

- The medical certificate showing the cause of death (supplied to you by the Doctor or Hospital)
- The full names of the deceased person (and any other names they once had)
- The date and place of death
- The usual address of the deceased
- Their date and place of birth
- Their most recent occupation
- whether or not the deceased person was receiving a pension or other benefits
- The name, occupation and date of birth of their spouse or civil partner. You should also take these, if possible:
- The deceased person's medical card or NHS number
- The deceased person's birth and marriage or civil partnership certificates, if available.

The registrar will give you the following:

- A certificate for burial or cremation - known as the Green Form which gives permission for the body to be buried or cremated
- A certificate of registration of death -form BD8. If the deceased person was receiving any benefits you should complete this and send it to the local social security office
- A death certificate if you want one. This is a certified copy of what is written in the death register and will be needed for the will and any claims to pensions, savings, etc. It may be best to pay for several copies, as copies required at a later date will be more expensive. Note that ordinary photocopies are not accepted by most organisations, such as banks.

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