

Care after death

After your death staff will continue to care for your body with dignity and respect and in accordance with any religious and cultural beliefs you might have. Those close to you will also continue to be cared for after your death and in the following weeks and months, through access to bereavement services and practical support to help with tasks such as making funeral arrangements.

Verifying a death

If the person was being cared at home and the cause of death is clear and their GP had visited the deceased during the last few days of illness (within last few days), the GP will need to be contacted who will verify the death and provide a medical certificate and a formal notice which states the doctor has signed the medical certificate and advises how to get the death registered.

If the death was unexpected, the doctor may report the death to the Coroner e.g if the person was not attended by a doctor during their final few days or the cause of death was not known or uncertain.

Registering a death

In England and Wales, it is legally required to register the death at the [registry office](#) within five days, unless the Coroner is investigating the circumstances relating to the death.

It is best to contact the register office in the area in which the person died, otherwise it may take longer to get the necessary documents and this could delay any funeral arrangements. To contact the Redbridge Registry Office dial **0208 708 7123** or visit the Council website www.redbridge.gov.uk

Being practical

There are a number of practicalities that need to be sorted out after the death including:

- The GP of the deceased must issue a death certificate
- A funeral director must be appointed to organise the arrangements
- Friends and family must be notified
- Death is to be registered in five days (take the death certificate with you)
- Notify the pension service
- Read the will (if there is one)
- You may be entitled to help with funeral expenses
- Ask a benefit advisor to check your financial situation

Tell Us Once Service

When someone dies you will need to notify a number of different government departments and local services about the death usually providing them with the same information. The Redbridge Tell Us Once service will make this process much easier for you.

Tell Us Once can help tell all the relevant people and organisations who need to know on your behalf. You will not even need to provide each organisation with a copy of the death certificate.

Should a death occur outside of Redbridge you can still use the Tell Us Once service, provided the Registrars office in the area where the death took place is a local authority signed up to the Tell Us Once programme.

Coping with Bereavement

Coming to terms with the death of a loved one is difficult, even if that person had been ill for some time and the death was expected. You will find that you go through a range of emotions after a death.

Bereavement support

When caring responsibilities come to end carers can feel an acute sense of loss not only of the person who has died but also in terms of their own role for the future.

Across Redbridge, bereavement services are available to support carers and families/friends to come to terms with their loss and move on with their lives. Services include one-to-one or group support sessions where you can talk about any concerns or anxieties caused by your loved one's death to understand your grief and come to terms with your loss, as well as more informal events designed to help you remember your loved one.

Help and guidance can be found in a useful booklet called 'What to do after a death', published by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). The booklet is usually available when registering a death or you can find it online at www.dwp.gov.uk

Benefits and financial help

[Bereavement Benefits](#) that a person may be entitled to include: bereavement allowance, widowed parent's allowance, bereavement payment, funeral payment. Information relating to benefits and financial help are available at the registrar's office.

Other End of Life factsheets which may be of interest:

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| Factsheet 1: Care in the last year of life  | Factsheet 6: Care after death  |
| Factsheet 2: Support in the last six months  | Factsheet 7: Frequently Asked Questions  |
| Factsheet 3: At every step of the journey  | |
| Factsheet 4: Approaching the final few weeks  | |
| Factsheet 5: Care in the last few days  | |