

Registering a death

All deaths need to be registered with the registrar for births, deaths and marriages. This must be done within five days in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and eight days in Scotland.

If a death has been referred to the coroner, you'll need to wait for them to give permission before you can register the death. There's no cost for registering a death. But you will need to pay to get copies of the death certificate.

Where to register a death

You can find your local register office online:

- **England and Wales**
www.gov.uk/register-offices
- **Scotland**
www.nrscotland.gov.uk/registration/registering-a-death
- **Northern Ireland**
www.nidirect.gov.uk/contacts/district-registrars-northern-ireland

In England and Wales, it's best to use the register office closest to where the person died. You can use a register office in another area, but the paperwork may take a few days.

In Northern Ireland and Scotland, the death can be registered in any district or council registration office.

Who can register a death?

- A relative
- Someone who was present at the death
- The person's executor or other legal representative
- The person arranging the funeral, but not the funeral director

If you are in any doubt about who can register a death, contact the register office.

What information you'll need to provide

- Medical certificate of cause of death, provided by the GP or hospital
- Some identification as proof of who you are

You should also try to bring the deceased's:

- Birth and marriage or civil partnership certificate
- NHS medical card
- Proof of address, such as a utility bill
- Documents relating to receipt of government pension or allowances

Don't worry if you can't find all of these documents – you'll still be able to register the death without them.

What you'll get from the registrar

England and Wales

- A Certificate for Burial and Cremation so the funeral can take place
- A Certificate for Registration of Death. You'll need this to deal with the person's affairs if they were getting a pension or benefits

Scotland

- A Certificate for Registration of Death so the funeral can take place
- A Registration or Notification of Death Certificate. You'll need this to deal with the person's affairs if they were getting a pension or benefits

Northern Ireland

- A form which gives permission for the funeral to take place

Registering a death in the Republic of Ireland

A death can be registered with any Registrar, regardless of where it occurs. Deaths must be registered as soon as possible after the death and no later than three months from the date of death. For further information, please visit: www.gov.ie/en/service/49c66f-registering-a-death-in-ireland

Got a question?

If you have any questions about how to register a death, please contact the **funeral director** shown on the Plan Holder Certificate. You can also call Golden Charter on **0800 833 800**.

The information above is correct at the time of print but may be subject to change.

