

## 4. BEREAVEMENT

When someone dies there are many decisions and arrangements to be made, at a time of great personal distress. Practical advice and support may be provided by friends, family, doctor, nurse, solicitor, minister of religion or anyone involved with you or the person who has died. The Funeral Director can also explain about arrangements that have to be made. Citizens Advice Bureaux can provide confidential, independent advice and information on all aspects of the situation. You may feel you want to talk to someone who is outside your immediate family or with other people who have been through a similar experience, and there are a number of organisations that offer a listening ear or counselling service and others deal especially with people who have been bereaved.

**AGE CONCERN WEST SUSSEX**  
(Age Concern and Help the Aged to be known as Age UK from Spring 2010)

[www.ageconcern.org.uk/AgeConcern/factsheets.asp](http://www.ageconcern.org.uk/AgeConcern/factsheets.asp)

Publishes free fact sheets including one with information about planning a funeral, financial help and dealing with someone's estate.

**BRITISH HUMANIST ASSOCIATION**

[www.humanism.org.uk](http://www.humanism.org.uk)

Humanist ceremonies organises non-religious ceremonies for funerals, weddings and baby-namings. It is part of the British Humanist Association, the leading UK organisation representing the non-religious. It provides its members with fellowship and support through newsletters, local groups, campaign networks and conferences.

**CARERS SUPPORT SERVICE, WORTHING & DISTRICT**

01903 536378

Can provide useful contact information following a death, and a listening ear. Can also give details of organisations which offer bereavement counselling.

**CHURCHES AND FAITH GROUPS**

Many churches and faith groups offer support to people who are bereaved even if they are not members of their community. Contact details can be found in the Yellow Pages.

**COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS**

[www.tcf.org.uk](http://www.tcf.org.uk)

The Compassionate Friends (TCF) is an organisation of bereaved parents and their families offering understanding, support and encouragement to others after the death of a child or children. They also offer support, advice and information to other relatives, friends and professionals who are helping the family.

**CRUSE BEREAVEMENT CARE**

[www.crusebereavementcare.org.uk](http://www.crusebereavementcare.org.uk)

Offers free and confidential bereavement counselling for all those bereaved, and social meetings locally on Tuesdays and Thursdays. One to one counselling also available. Answerphone available out of hours, calls returned within 48 hours.

## **FUNERAL COSTS**

You can only get help with the cost of a funeral if it appears reasonable for you to accept responsibility for the funeral arrangements and cost. To possibly be eligible for a payment from the Social Fund you must be in receipt of a qualifying benefit. For further information contact the Jobcentre Plus network/Pension Service and/or see their Booklet 'What to do after a death'. (See section 3 Benefits and money matters).

## **LESBIAN AND GAY BEREAVEMENT PROJECT**

Offers support for anyone affected by the death of a lesbian or gay man.

## **REGISTERING A DEATH**

The death of a family member or close friend is distressing and the formalities that need to be followed after that death can prove very stressful.

The death must be registered with the registrar of births and deaths. Normally a death is registered within 5 days (unless the registrar says this period may be extended). You can give any registrar in England and Wales the information to register a death. You will need to go to the registrar's office to tell them formally about the person's death. If the death took place in a different area from the registrar you chose, they will send these details to the registrar who covers that area to register the death. The certificates and documents are issued to you at the time of the registration. If you register the death away from the area where the death took place, the registrar will send this information to you.

You will be asked by the Registrar for the following information concerning the deceased:

- Date and place of death
- Full names of deceased, including maiden name where appropriate
- Date and place of birth of deceased
- Deceased's occupation, and the name and occupation of their husband, wife or civil partner where appropriate
- Deceased's usual address
- The date of birth of their surviving husband, wife or civil partner, if the person was married or in a civil partnership
- If the person was getting a pension or benefit from the Government

It is a good idea to look out some documentation for the deceased if you are unsure of any of the above, such as birth certificate, marriage certificate (if applicable) and NHS medical card. When the death has been entered in the register by the Registrar, you will be issued with two certificates which are free of charge. These certificates can only be used for specific purposes:

- A certificate for burial or cremation (known as the 'green form'), unless the coroner has given you an order for burial (form I01), or a certificate for cremation. You need to take this to the funeral director so that the funeral arrangements can take place.
- A certificate of registration of death (form BD8). This is for benefit claim purposes only. You should read the information on the back of the certificate. If any of it applies, fill in the certificate and contact Jobcentre Plus or The Pension Service

This information is extracted from the Worthing & District Carers Information Pack 2009, and is provided for information without liability or recommendation. Please contact us on 01903 536378 for a full printed copy.

Certified copies of the death certificate are available at the time of registration for a fee. You may need these for insurance or probate purposes. The Registrar may be able to advise you how many you will need.

## **WORTHING BEREAVEMENT CARE**

Help for bereaved people through the grieving process by providing confidential listening and support. The service is free and available for people in the Worthing, area as well as Clapham, Ferring, Findon, Lancing, Patcham and Sompting.