

What do I do First When Someone Dies?

The simplest thing to do is to give Funeral Choices a call (614 539-4508) and we would be privileged to help guide you through these first decision steps at no obligation or charge. The first thing you do usually depends upon the location where the death occurred.

Death occurs at Home

If the death occurs in a residence and no emergency personnel are present, the police need to be notified. If 911 was called and emergency personnel respond they will notify the police. The police will in turn notify the medical examiner that may make an investigation prior to releasing the body to the funeral service provider. The police will also notify the funeral home that you have selected, if you have selected one. (See Selecting a Funeral Home) The police will need the following information to provide the funeral service provider:

- Full name of the person who died
 - Their Social Security Number
 - Residence Address
 - Phone Number
 - Zip Code
 - Date of Birth
 - Date and Time of Death
- Location of Death
- Next of Kin
 - Name
 - Relationship to the person who died
 - Address
 - Phone number
- Have Pre-Arrangements been made
- Physicians Name
 - Address
 - Phone Number

Death occurs at home under Hospice assistance or a Home Health Care Provider

Notifying Hospice or the Home Care Provider is the typical first step and they will in turn notify the Physician, the Medical Examiner and the funeral home, if you have selected one. (See Selecting a Funeral Home). Typically, the Medical Examiner will not need to come to the residence if Hospice or a Home Health Care Provider is involved. Also, they will have the necessary information to provide the funeral service provider that comes to take care of the person who died.

Death occurs at the Hospital or Nursing Facility

The hospital will make the proper notifications (physician and medical examiner) and call the funeral home you have selected. See Selecting a Funeral Service Provider if you have not selected one already.

Other Circumstances

Call us at 614 539-4508 and we will assist you to make sure that all the proper notifications are made.

Permission to Embalm

Frequently, the contacted funeral service provider will ask if the family has given permission to embalm. You do not have to make this decision at this time and in many cases embalming is not required. You will be liable to the funeral home for Embalming charges, removal charges and possibly Basic Fees and Services once you give the funeral home this permission. If you are sure about the decision to embalm and you are comfortable with the selection of your funeral service provider, then giving permission to embalm allows the funeral service provider to more quickly prepare the body for services. Otherwise, you can wait until you meet to make funeral arrangements to decide on this issue. Funeral Choices will take the time to explain all your options regarding embalming.

Selecting a Funeral Service Provider

Our experience indicates that families select funeral homes for various reasons:

- Convenience of the funeral home location. How far will the family have to go to make funeral arrangements? How close will the service location be?
- Previous experiences. Were previous funeral experiences appropriate and meaningful? Families seeking unique life celebrations may not select a funeral service provider that does not support this type of service.
- Price. Today, many families are comparing pricing on funeral services. It is very important to understand your options and the benefits provided when comparing price. All funeral service providers, products and services are not equal.
- Funeral Staff. Some families have relationships with staff at a Funeral Service provider and they choose that service based upon that connection.

Take time to become familiar with the value that funerals provide families while they deal with their loss before making your decision exclusively on price.

Next Steps

After the funeral service provider has been notified, they will come to the place of death and transport your loved one to a secure location until permission to embalm is received or funeral arrangements are made. The funeral home will contact you to set up a time to sit down and make funeral arrangements.