

# Bereavement Covid-19

Please note that since the publishing of bereavement booklets, many temporary practical changes have been introduced due to Covid-19.

This covering sheet has been designed to help you through the difficult and distressing time after the death of a relative or friend. It aims to give you current practical help and guidance with some of the arrangements you will need to make due to your recent bereavement. The rest of the bereavement booklet contains additional information and support, but please note the changes on this covering sheet.

- Covid-19 patient's deaths are not reportable to the Coroner. However, sometimes it may be necessary to report a death to the Coroner before the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD) can be given. In these circumstances all communication will be undertaken through the Coroner's Office on 0121 569 7200.
  - The Coroner will decide either that:
    - a post-mortem examination does not need to take place, in which case they will notify the Registrar of this, using a Form A and the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death will be issued; or
    - a post-mortem examination will need to take place, in which case they will instruct a Pathologist (a highly trained doctor) to perform this.
  - The MCCD that is needed to register the death will be scanned by the CARES Officers and sent to the Registry Office.
  - Please contact the CARES office at Sandwell General on 0121 507 3464 to provide next of kin contact details and email address where appropriate.
  - Families should contact the Register Office to make an appointment to register the death either by telephone or through our online appointment system available on the council website, details are Telephone Number: 0121 368 1188 or via [www.sandwell.gov.uk](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk)
- Our Register Office team will telephone the informant at their allocated appointment time and complete the registration process.
- Death Certificates are £11 each and they can be purchased once the registration is complete by using a debit/credit card.
  - The Registrar will issue the Death Certificate and Green Form to the Next of Kin and/or nominated funeral director. The original forms issued will be kept at the Register Office.
  - Unfortunately, viewing of the deceased will not be possible at the Mortuary.



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