

What to do When Death Occurs

When a death occurs, there are many decisions that your family will be asked to make. When possible, we recommend that you meet with your Funeral Director before death occurs. This can help make a smoother transition, allowing you to focus on your family and friends, rather than the many details of arranging the service at the time of need.

If the death occurs at home, and under hospice care please notify the physician or attending nurse. If the death was unexpected, or if there are any peculiar circumstances, phone the police immediately.

Immediately:

- Contact your physician or notify the nurse at the hospital or hospice
- Contact the funeral home
- Contact close family members
- Schedule an appointment, date and time to meet with your Funeral Director and discuss arrangements

The Funeral Director will gather information from the nurse and request permission to bring your loved one into the care of the funeral home.

Others you will need to call:

- Any additional family members and friends
- Clergy or other spiritual advisors

While there are no good ways to inform anyone that someone they love has passed away, when notifying family you may want to use the following phrases:

- It is with great sadness that I inform you of the death of _____.
- I am sorry to inform you that _____ passed away.
- The time has come, _____ has passed away.
- The battle is over and _____ has passed away.
- My _____ has died.

