

OKA Emergency Preparedness Program

What to do when someone dies

Jayesh Nayak and Muralidhar Nayak

<http://www.ontario-konkanis.com/2019-05-16-03-44-03/emergency-preparedness>

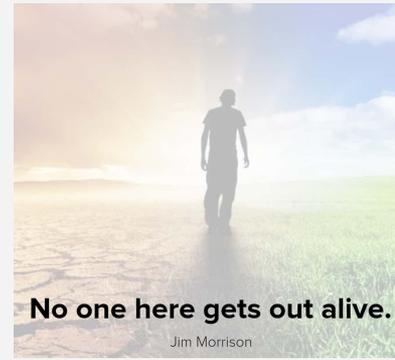
Source: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/what-do-when-someone-dies>

Sunday, December 6, 2020



Agenda

1. Who to call first?
2. What to do - location of death
3. Organ and tissue donation
4. Registering the death with the municipality
5. Getting a burial permit
6. Getting a death certificate
7. Arranging the cremation
8. Wills and Estates
9. Who to notify upon death
10. Finances of the deceased



Who to call first

An expected death: call the doctor who was caring for the deceased person.

An unexpected death: call emergency services first.

No available doctor/emergency services in the area: contact the local coroner's office.

Unsure about the circumstances: contact the local coroner's office or the Chief Coroner of Ontario.

The Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario serves the living through high quality death investigations and inquests to ensure that no death will be overlooked, concealed or ignored. The findings are used to generate recommendations to help improve public safety and prevent deaths in similar circumstances.

Source: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/what-do-when-someone-dies>
http://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/DeathInvestigations/office_coroner/coroner.html



What to do - location of death

At a medical facility:

1. Check if there is an option for medical resuscitation and if family members are willing
2. Have the executor of the WILL present/informed and check if there is any decision on medical resuscitation mentioned in the will
 - a. if there is, then the executor would be the decision maker
 - b. in case there is no WILL present, the surviving spouse who is in good mental health is the decision maker
 - c. The surviving family members should discuss and come up with a consensus of who will be the decision maker and provide a general power of attorney.
3. The doctors there would perform the needful and provide you the necessary documents.

Reference: <https://www.cmpa-acpm.ca/en/advice-publications/browse-articles/2016/completing-medical-certificates-of-death-who-s-responsible>



What to do - location of death

At Home:

- a.** If there is a history of recent illness and your family physician knows about it please contact the family physician. He will provide you the Death certificate.
- b.** In case of no medical history, then please call 911.
 - The paramedics and the police will take over the process.
 - The police will talk to all the family members and rule out any foul play.
 - The paramedics will take the body to the hospital and perform an autopsy.
 - After the police is certain death was due to natural causes the body will be released

Reference:-

<https://www.cmpa-acpm.ca/en/advice-publications/browse-articles/2016/completing-medical-certificates-of-death-who-s-responsible>



What to do - location of death

Out **of province**: Call 911

- The Paramedics and the police will take over the process.
- The police will talk to all the family members and rule out any foul play.
- The paramedics will take the Body to the hospital and perform an autopsy.
- After the police is certain death was due to natural causes the body will be released
- You have the decision to make if you want to repatriate the body to the home town or cremate it there.
- To transport the Human remains by air please check with the Airline.

Air Canada Compassionate Services

<https://www.aircanada.com/cargo/en/shipping/shipping-solutions/ac-compassion/>

WestJet compassionate services

<https://www.westjet.com/en-ca/book-trip/westjet-cargo/shipping-information/human-remains>

Away from home in a foreign land.

Please contact the Canadian Embassy there

<https://travel.gc.ca/assistance/emergency-info/death-abroad>



Organ and tissue donation



Organ and tissue donation can help enhance and save lives, and provide immediate comfort and long-lasting consolation to grieving family members. You can also choose to donate a body to science or medical research in Ontario.

Today, in Ontario, there are over 1,500 people waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant, which is their only treatment option. Every 3 days someone will die for lack of a timely transplant.

One donor can save up to 8 lives through organ donation and enhance the lives of up to 75 more through the gift of tissue. Age is not a disqualification for becoming a donor. The oldest organ donor was over 90 and the oldest tissue donor was over 100. All major religions support organ and tissue donation, or respect an individual's choice.

<https://www.giftoflife.on.ca/en/>

<https://www.beadonor.ca/about-donation>



Register the death with the local municipality

Funeral directors can help you make arrangements for full funeral services. A funeral director also oversees the process of registering a death.

To register a death, a funeral director submits 2 documents to a municipal clerk's office:

A Medical Certificate of Death: the attending doctor or a coroner completes this form, outlining the cause of death.

A Statement of Death: a family member and a funeral director complete this form, together. It includes personal information about the deceased (e.g., family history, age at death, place of death).

Information that is gathered about causes of death can be used for medical/health research or statistics.



Get a burial permit

In most cases, funeral directors can help get a burial permit from the local municipality Registry service.

You need a burial permit before funeral services, including cremation, can be performed. You need this permit, even if the burial or other arrangements will take place outside the province.

If the death was outside Ontario, but the burial and arrangements will take place in the province, you will need a burial, transit or removal permit from the jurisdiction where the death occurred.

<https://www.toronto.ca/311/knowledgebase/kb/docs/articles/city-clerks-office/secretariat/permits-burial-permits.html>



Getting a death certificate

You can apply for a death certificate at any time, but it cannot be issued until a death is registered.

You may need an original or certified copy of this certificate to:

- settle an estate
- access insurance benefits
- access or cancel certain government services (e.g., health card, pension)
- research a family tree

Who can request: next of kin, an executor or estate administrator.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/how-get-copy-ontario-death-certificate-online>



Order of events after death

Call Doctor/ 911/ Chief Coroner's office



Get Medical certificate of death from Doctor



Get Statement of Death from family member and Funeral Director



Register death with local municipality



Get burial permit from local Registry



Get a Death Certificate



Arrange for cremation

Arrange the cremation

Only certain people have the legal authority to decide what will happen to the body of the deceased person. In order of priority, they are:

- ***an estate trustee***, sometimes referred to as executor or executrix (the person named in the deceased person's will or the person appointed by the court to administer the estate)
- ***a spouse***
- ***adult children***
- ***parents*** of the deceased

If you are an estate trustee, expect to provide photo ID and proof of your authority (e.g., a will or court order) before you make arrangements.

Bereavement Authority of Ontario <https://thebao.ca/>



Arrange the cremation - using a service provider

You do not have to use a funeral home or transfer service. If you do, the service provider you choose needs to be licensed. A family member of the deceased can arrange funeral services without a license if they are not being paid.

The death must be registered before a burial permit can be issued and a burial permit is needed for a cremation or burial. If you are going to move a body out of Ontario, you should speak to a funeral home or transfer service.

Call the crematorium of choice and provide them the Death Certificate.

- The crematorium will take the body and keep it in the cooler until the date and time of visitation and cremation is decided.
- Some crematorium would inform the necessary government departments and the Ministry of Birth and Death and provide the official death certificates.
- Please request multiple original death certificates which will come in handy after as major financial institution require original certificates.
- After a few days after the cremation you will get a letter from the Revenue Canada regarding
- any tax issues that need to be sorted out.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/arrange-funeral-burial-cremation-or-scattering>



Handling cremated remains

In Ontario you may scatter cremated remains on **Crown land**, including land covered by water, if its unoccupied (e.g., provincial park, conservation reserve, Great Lakes) and there are no signs or postings that prohibit scattering transport cremated remains out of Ontario.

To transport Cremated Remains

- To Canada : <https://www.catsa-acsta.gc.ca/en/cremated-remains>
- To USA:
<https://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/whatcanibring/items/cremated-remains>
<https://www.tsa.gov/blog/2018/07/10/ways-travel-cremated-remains>
- To India : [https://www.cgitoronto.gov.in/eoi.php?id=transport ashes](https://www.cgitoronto.gov.in/eoi.php?id=transport%20ashes)
[https://www.cgitoronto.gov.in/eoi.php?id=transport dead body](https://www.cgitoronto.gov.in/eoi.php?id=transport%20dead%20body)



Financial assistance

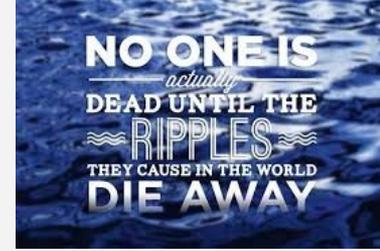
You can apply to your local municipality for assistance if you do not have enough money to pay for a funeral, transfer service, burial or cremation.

You must apply before you enter into a contract with a service provider, as you may not be eligible for assistance afterwards.

In these situations, there are usually financial limits associated with your choice of casket, urn or grave and services.



Wills and Estates



After someone dies, you may need to check if the deceased person has a will. A will is a legal document that sets out who will inherit property, possessions and other personal items.

To find out if a will has been filed: you can contact the estates division of the local Ontario court in the community where the deceased lived.



Without a will

When death overtakes us, all that we have is left to others; all that we are we take with us.

Without a will, an estate is distributed according to the law.

This can be a complex process. If you are in this situation, you might want to contact a lawyer.

The Law Society of Upper Canada offers a free referral service by phone.

This service is designed to connect you with legal services that might be helpful to you.

You will be connected to a Legal Information Officer who can:

- assess your needs
- provide the name of a lawyer or paralegal, based on your circumstances

The service is not considered legal advice. Legal fees should be discussed directly with the

lawyer or paralegal you are referred to. Law Society of Upper Canada, Law Society Referral Service

www.lsuc.on.ca



Death is the last thing you do in your life, shouldn't you do it gracefully?

With a will

If the deceased has a will, a “probate” court may or may not need to determine that it is legal.

If a court determines that a will is legal, it also grants “probate” — or approves — a trustee to carry out the wishes of the deceased person. This trustee is often named in a will.

If you are named as the estate trustee (also called the “executor”), you are authorized to administer the estate of the deceased person. You are considered the deceased person’s personal representative, and will carry out their wishes as stated in the will.

For example, you might distribute assets such as a home or financial savings or donate money to charity if that is what is outlined in the will.



Who to notify upon death

Cancel the **driver's license** of the deceased - at a Service Ontario location or by mail

Contact compensation, pensions and **benefits**

Cancel vehicle **insurance**, memberships and permits

Transfer or cancel **real estate**, properties or utilities



Oversee the deceased's finances

If you are the executor, you will need to:

- file an income tax form on behalf of the deceased person
- inform the person's banks and financial institutions of the death
- contact the Family Responsibility Office if the deceased paid child or spousal support

Contact CRA - What to do someone has died

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/life-events/what-when-someone-died.html>



Some interesting sites on related topics

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/national-long-term-care-couples-housing-1.5159102>

https://tevacaregivers.com/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwocPnBRDFARIsAJJcf96hCBhhaXZa8DoFsfN4GBTko6eKNg-DvITBZkwu5nB8OutcglEnCUcaAkf5EALw_wcB

<https://www.cicnews.com/2019/06/canadas-new-caregiver-immigration-pilots-set-to-launch-this-week-0612404.html#gs.w8nm17>

To find this on the OKA website, please visit:

<http://www.ontario-konkanis.com/2019-05-16-03-44-03/emergency-preparedness>



Disclaimer

The information provided in this document or OKA-EPP website does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal advice; instead, all information, content, and materials available on this document or the OKA-EPP website are for general informational purposes only.

Information in this document or OKA-EPP website may not constitute the most up-to-date information.

This document or OKA-EPP website contains links to other third-party websites. Such links are only for the convenience of the reader, OKA EPP and its members do not recommend or endorse the contents of the third-party sites.



Our Goal

Support when you need it

<http://www.ontario-konkanis.com/2019-05-16-03-44-03/emergency-preparedness>