



Death Certification & Cremation Pathway in Medway & Swale

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Medical Referee Thamesview
Crematorium



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Medical Referee Role

Consectetuer Elit

Nunc Viverra

Pellentesque Habitant

Lorem Ipsum

Medical Referee for Crematorium Role

- ◆ Power to halt cremation if post-mortem inconclusive unless inquest opened by coroner
- ◆ To disallow cremation if death not properly registered
- ◆ To consider representation from applicant for cremation following inspection of cremation papers.
- ◆ Have statutory power to reject inadequately completed forms and refuse cremation



The Cremation (England and Wales) Regulations 2008

Revised guidance to medical practitioners completing form Cremation 4 in a period of emergency

March 2020

The Cremation (England and Wales) Regulations 2008 are modified when specific provisions in the Coronavirus Act 2020 are implemented.

This revised Guidance applies only when the modified Regulations are in force.

No other version of this Guidance should be used during that period.

This revised Guidance will no longer apply once the modified Regulations cease to be in force.

If you are unsure whether this revised Guidance applies, you should contact www.gov.uk/government/contacts for information forms and guidance or contact coronavirus@justice.gov.uk.

This revised guidance is highlighted in the joint fact sheets.

Death Certification & Referral to Coroner

Covid-19 Pandemic 26th March 2020

- ❖ Cremation (England & Wales) Regulations 2008 modified according to the Coronavirus Act 2020
- ❖ Cremation 4 to be submitted only.
- ❖ No need for confirmatory Cremation 5 until change of legislation

Major Changes to Cremation form 4 Administration

- ◆ Qu 5 “ Usual medical practitioner”
- ◆ This is the deceased general practitioner or if in hospital for >24 hrs will be the hospital medical practitioner
- ◆ Qu 6 “ Please state for how long you attended the deceased during their last illness?”
- ◆ In any care setting the deceased should have been attended by a medical practitioner during 28 days prior to death or seen by a medical practitioner following death
- ◆ If the certifying practitioner is neither the medical practitioner who saw deceased before or after death he should know of the medical practitioner who did so.
- ◆ Where certifying medical practitioner did not attend the deceased for any time prior to death they should answer N/A to question 6

Major Changes to Cremation form 4 Administration

- ◊ Qu 7 “Please state the number of days and hours before the deceased’s death that you last saw them alive?”
- ◊ Where the certifying medical practitioner attended the deceased the expectation is that they will have seen the deceased (including by video consultation) during the period of 28 days prior to death unless they saw the body following death.
- ◊ If their last attendance of the deceased was by digital consultation, the certifying medical practitioner should indicate this by writing ‘by video’ to the right of the ‘hours’ box. Audio only (ie telephone) consultations are not accepted for the purposes of qu 7

Major Changes to Cremation form 4 Administration

- ◆ Qu 8 “ Please state the date and time that you saw the body of the deceased and the examination you made of the body”
- ◆ Where the certifying medical practitioner has seen the body of the deceased, they should complete Qu 8 with the date and time and a record of the examination they made.
- ◆ Where the certifying doctor has not seen the body of the deceased but they know of another medical practitioner who did, they should answer ‘N/A’ to Qu and the examination, made by that medical practitioner should be reported at Qu 9

Major Changes to Cremation form 4 Administration

- ❖ Qu 9 Free text section for medical practitioner to explain how they arrived at the cause of death. You should refer to the medical notes and also observations as to the condition of the deceased.
- ❖ Where the certifying medical practitioner did not attend the deceased prior to death or after death they must have access to all relevant medical notes of the deceased and provide the full name and GMC number of a medical practitioner who either did attend the patient prior to death or saw the body after death, providing the date and time.
- ❖ Must include details of discussion and exchanges related to death of deceased with other medical practitioner who attended the deceased prior to death or saw the body after death.

Major Changes to Cremation form 4 Administration

- ◆ Qu 11: Cause of death
- ◆ All sections of this must be answered. A mode of death on its own is never acceptable. Failure of an organ needs to explain the cause of that failure
- ◆ Qu 12 and 13: Operations
- ◆ This is to determine surgical mishaps (such deaths should be referred to the coroner to investigate) and to indicate diagnostic procedures which contributed to the cause of death. If procedures of significant importance are not included it may call into question the reliability of the certificate.

Major Changes to Cremation form 4 Administration

- ◆ Qu 14, 15 & 16: Those nursing the deceased or present at the death
- ◆ Important for gathering confirmatory information. Specific names (and contact details) should be give to assist medical practitioner and medical referee.
- ◆ Qu 17, 18 and 19: Background and circumstances
- ◆ These questions are likely to be answered in the negative, but if not will prompt further investigation and in many cases referral to a coroner.
- ◆ Qu 20 & 21: Referral to coroner/coroner's office
- ◆ Referral required if any concerns or doubts about cause of death.

Major Changes to Cremation form 4 Administration

- ◆ Qu22 : Registration of death
- ◆ In majority of cases the medical practitioner certifying the death for registration has also completed Cremation 4 papers. In the event that this is not the case the medical referee may enquire from the medical practitioner completing the MCCD to ensure there are no discrepancies or uncertainties are resolved. The medical referee will only authorise cremation where the cause of death has been ascertained.
- ◆ Qu 23: Removal of implants
- ◆ Extremely important as may cause damage to machinery and human life if they explode and/or present other risks such as radiation during the cremation process.

Battery powered implants harmful for cremation

- ◇ Pacemakers
- ◇ Implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICDs)
- ◇ Cardiac resynchronization therapy devices (CRTDs)
- ◇ Implantable loop recorders
- ◇ Ventricular assist devices (VADs)
- ◇ Implantable drug pumps
- ◇ Neurostimulators (including functional electrical stimulators)
- ◇ Bone growth stimulators
- ◇ Hydrocephalus programmable shunts
- ◇ Fixion intramedullary nails
- ◇ Dental mercury amalgam
- ◇ Brachytherapy to the prostate (radio-active 125 seeds)

Major Changes to Cremation form 4 Administration

- ◆ Part 3 : Statement of truth
- ◆ In cases of doubt and poorly completed forms the registered qualifications and GMC reference number on website will be checked. The Cremation 4 form must have a wet or digital signature to be fully accepted.
- ◆ All signatories must be registered medical practitioners with a license to practice.

Investigations & Inquests in Kent contact details

Mid Kent & Medway

(Maidstone, Medway, Tonbridge & Malling (part), Swale (part)

- ◆ Senior Coroner :- Patricia Harding
Coroner's Officers (To report new death or relating to current case)
- ◆ Telephone :- 03000 410502
- ◆ Email :-
KentandMedwayCoroners@kent.gov.uk
- ◆ Office hours : Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm

Central & South East Kent

(Ashford, Canterbury (part), Dover (part), Shepway, Swale (part)

- ◆ Senior Coroner:- Patricia Harding
- ◆ Coroner's Officers (To report new death or relating to current case)
- ◆ Telephone :- 03000 410502
- ◆ Email :-
KentandMedwayCoroners@kent.gov.uk
- ◆ Office hours : Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm

