

# What you should KNOW ... What you should DO ...

## WHEN DEATH OCCURS

### UNEXPECTED AT HOME OR ELSEWHERE

Call 911. The police and/or emergency squad will come. The body may be taken to a hospital and/or morgue and held until released by the coroner.

### EXPECTED FOLLOWING AN ILLNESS

If patient is NOT under Hospice Care, call 911. The Police and/or Emergency Squad will come. The body may be taken to a hospital.

If patient is under Hospice Care, call the hospice provider who will instruct you in what to do.

### DEATH IN AN ACCIDENT

The body may be taken to a hospital and/or morgue. After someone in authority determines there are no questionable circumstances, the body will be released for final disposition.

### DEATH IN A HOSPITAL OR HOSPICE FACILITY

A doctor will determine the cause of death for the death certificate. The body will then be released.

It is important to locate any Advanced Directives (including DNR orders) and Designated Funeral Agent forms that the patient has prepared. If patient is a member of the local Funeral Consumers Alliance\* much of what is needed may already have been done. (Is there a Membership Card? Or call 614-263-4632).

In all cases, someone in authority ultimately pronounces death and releases the body to the next-of-kin or designated funeral agent for final arrangements after any legal questions are resolved.

### DEATH IN A NURSING HOME

A doctor will determine the cause of death for the death certificate and release the body.

### OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

After release of the body by the person with authority, the funeral home of choice should be called. There need be no hurry. Take time to say goodbye. A team will come to take the body. The funeral director will obtain the necessary signature for the death certificate. The designated person in charge of funeral arrangements will arrange to meet with the funeral director at the funeral home to sign a contract for services and provide vital statistics (see below). (Reminder: you can obtain prices by phone from funeral homes prior to calling them to pick up the body. If the deceased was a member of the non-profit FCACO, the prices have already been determined at their cooperating funeral homes.)

Note: If a home funeral is desired, many other issues will need to be addressed. Consult our separate information sheet for home funerals.

### PERSONS WITH WISHES ON FILE AT A MORTUARY

### MAY HAVE ALREADY SUPPLIED THE FOLLOWING

### INFORMATION FOR A DEATH CERTIFICATE:

1. First, middle and last names of deceased, address and phone number
2. Date and place of birth
3. Color or race and country of citizenship
4. Marital status, name and occupation of spouse
5. Next of kin (if not spouse) and relationship
6. Name and birthplace of father of deceased
7. Maiden name/birthplace of mother of deceased
8. Last occupation of deceased. How long?
9. Employing firm and Social Security number
10. If veteran: rank, branch of service and serial number, dates of service

## OTHER DETAILS SURVIVORS SHOULD KNOW

1. Was deceased a member of FCACO?
2. What funeral home was chosen, if any?
3. Was there a prepaid funeral contract? With what funeral home and where is it?
4. What arrangements were desired?
5. Was a Designated Funeral Agent appointed by the deceased? Where's the form?
6. Approximate number of certified copies of death certificates needed (for banks, Insurance, Veterans Administration, etc.)
7. Location of important papers. Hopefully not in a safe deposit box.
8. Were financial arrangements made for final expenses? Where? What?

(This is only a limited summary of information concerning this topic. No legal advice should be inferred.)\* Non-Profit FCACO May 15, 2010