



**St Oswald's  
Hospice**



# Arranging a funeral during the Coronavirus pandemic

**Mark Wait from Mark Wait Funeral Directors**

Life and even death is very different today and may be for quite some time to come due to the Covid 19 virus. You may have found it has been difficult even to be with a loved one when they die, or have needed to be wearing PPE which all feels very alien. Then you need to consider planning a funeral, which again poses challenges you might not have been prepared for.

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**FUNERAL SERVICES**

# Registering a death

Registering a death at the moment all needs to be undertaken electronically and by telephone, you currently cannot visit a registrar's office.

# Funeral arrangements

To arrange a funeral under the current guidelines, all funeral directors should be working within current social distancing guidelines and therefore offering a variety of ways to undertake the arrangements with you. This could be via telephone, FaceTime, video call or email. Funeral celebrants and religious ministers will also use many of these methods to contact you.

Restrictions on funeral services are sadly also necessary. At present there is no opportunity to have a church service in any religion. Cemeteries and crematoria have also restricted the numbers of people who can attend a funeral to enable social distancing to be observed. These restrictions depend upon the local authority and the size of the individual chapel.

Burials are still taking place but once again there are restrictions on numbers who can attend. Some cultural and family rituals are not able to be observed to minimise risk of transmission.

Currently funeral directors are not able to offer limousines for travel purposes, even if families are from the same household. Some funeral directors are still offering the opportunity for your loved one to dressed in own clothing and for visiting to take place, however you would need to check individually with your funeral director what their policy is.

For many people, it is common practice is to have a gathering after the funeral in order to meet family, friends and carry on celebrating someone's life. Unfortunately at the moment this is not possible and many people are making arrangements to have a gathering later in the year when they are able to meet. Likewise people are arranging to have memorial services in church or celebration of life gatherings.

Whilst it may be difficult to be able to have the funeral you would have liked for your loved one, your funeral director will try to ensure this is as dignified and personal to you as they are able to within the restrictions they have been given to work with.

Remember to talk to your funeral director and ask for advice and guidance. They should be able to guide you through the whole process and minimise any anxiety you feel about arranging a funeral during the period of lockdown.

