What to do when someone dies

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Losing a loved one is an incredibly difficult thing to go through, so we've put together this checklist to help make things a little bit easier.

By breaking everything down step by step, we hope to make things as simple and stress-free as possible for you and your family.

1. Get a medical certificate

The first thing you need to do after someone dies is get a medical certificate detailing the cause of death. If the person died in a hospital, this should have been given to you by a member of staff. If they died at home, you'll need to call their GP to get a medical certificate.

2. Register the death

The next step is to register the death and get a death certificate. This usually needs to be done within 3 months. To find your nearest civil register office, or online here.

3. Arrange the funeral

If your loved one made a will, they may have included funeral wishes to help you plan a meaningful farewell. If you want to speak to a specialist about your options, here's some we recommend.

4. Notify people and organisations

Family, friends, neighbours and work colleagues pick one person and ask them to spread the word and the load. Other key people and organisations you may need to speak are listed below

5. Apply for probate

Before you can deal with the person's estate and distribute assets to beneficiaries, you may need to apply for probate. If you think you might need probate, need help applying or want to speak to a specialist about your situation, here's some folks we recommend.

Here's a list of people and organisations you may need to notify of your loved one's death. Ideally, you should contact everyone within a couple of weeks. They'll then be able to freeze accounts and cancel any direct debits from the estate.

☐ Employer
☐ Mortgage provider, landlord or housing association
☐ Insurance providers (home and life are most common)

Utilities:
☐ Gas & Electricity provider
☐ TV, Internet provider

Financial:
☐ Banks, building societies, credit unions
☐ Pension providers
☐ Stocks & shares providers

Advisors:
☐ Financial, Accountant, Solicitor

Subscriptions:
☐ Online, magazine

Health:
☐ GP
☐ Dentist
☐ Optician
☐ Pharmacist
☐ Social Services or Carers

We know losing a loved one is never easy, but we hope this checklist helps to take some of the weight off your shoulders. If you're finding this time particularly difficult, you can get free support from **Irish Hospice Bereavement Support Line by calling 1800 807077.**