How this might affect you

If the death you are registering is selected for review you can make initial funeral arrangements. However, the funeral itself cannot take place until the review is complete and you receive the Certificate of Registration of Death (Form 14) from the registrar.

If you need the funeral to go ahead quickly, you can apply for advance registration.

Advance registration can be applied for in special circumstances as follows:

* for religious/cultural reasons (for example, local tradition or faith requirements to bury a person’s body quickly)
* for compassionate reasons (where delays would cause significant and unnecessary distress), and
* for practical/administrative reasons (for example, family have travelled from abroad to attend the funeral).

For more information about Healthcare Improvement Scotland’s Death Certification Review Service, visit www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/deathcertification

Death Certification Review: Advance Registration

Available for Registrations selected for review from 13 May 2015
What happens next?

If you choose to apply for advance registration the registrar will provide you with an application form and can help you to complete it.

The registrar will contact Healthcare Improvement Scotland where a medical reviewer will assess your application, along with the content of the MCCD. The medical reviewer will usually be able to confirm (within two hours of the application being made) if the funeral can proceed. The registrar will contact you to let you know if your application has been successful or not.

If the application does not meet the criteria for advance registration you do not need to take any further action.

What happens when you request an advance registration

1. MCCD selected for review
2. You request advance registration
3. Registrar sends form to medical reviewer
4. Medical reviewer considers application
5. If accepted, funeral can take place before review is finished
6. Level 1/level 2 review is completed
7. Funeral cannot take place until level 1/level 2 review is complete

Background

Following the introduction of new legislation, changes are being made to the way deaths are registered in Scotland. One of these changes means that, from 13 May 2015, Healthcare Improvement Scotland will review a random sample of medical certificates of cause of death (MCCDs). The MCCD is also known as the Form 11.

These reviews are designed to check the quality and accuracy of MCCDs and to improve the way that information about deaths is recorded.

There are two categories of review.

Level 1 reviews should normally be completed within one working day and Level 2 reviews within three working days.

Under the new system, medical reviewers will examine a random sample of about 10% of all deaths through a Level 1 review. An additional small number of MCCDs will be examined through a Level 2 review.