



BEST PRACTICE NOTES

Request for transfer of deceased for Medical Certification.

- Member Funeral Directors should seek to liaise and communicate with GP Surgeries to facilitate a workable solution for the completion of Cremation paperwork. Co-operation from both sides is the best way of achieving this.
- The dignity and respect of the deceased and sensitivities of their family and the general public should be preserved at all times.
- On receipt of first-call, the instructed funeral director should consider the distance from their premises to the local GP surgery, for the purposes of completing Cremation Form 4, if the GP has not seen the deceased at the place of death.
- If the distance is unreasonable from the GP surgery to the funeral home, then the instructed funeral director should request the support of a more local funeral director at a fair and equitable fee to carry out the removal to their premises and arrange the GP paperwork, prior to the instructed funeral director collecting both deceased and completed papers.
- If in the instance a GP declines to visit a funeral director caring for a former patient, when the distance is not excessive, then the GP may request the funeral director to convey the deceased to a more convenient location for an agreed time and date for examination. This would typically be another funeral director's premises but should never be the surgery car park or any other location where the dignity and privacy of the deceased and the sensitivities of the public are at risk of compromise.
- The funeral director caring for the deceased may seek reimbursement according to their tariff for conveyance for medical certification purposes. These charges should be passed either to the family or to the GP surgery depending upon the circumstances, distances and reasonableness of the request.
- We would consider a reasonable distance to be less than 5 miles – 8 miles, depending on the density of population of the setting.