

# HUMBOLDT CREMATION & FUNERAL SERVICE WHAT TO DO WHEN A DEATH OCCURS.

## DEATH AND GRIEF

When a loved one dies, it often is jarring and emotional. With this short information sheet, we hope to make this moment in your life as easy as possible to enable your mourning and grieving process. This slide show will go over the basics of who to call and where to go when a death has occurred. What the process of cremation entails, and what to expect when meeting with a Funeral Director and the funeral home.

## WHAT TO DO WHEN DEATH OCCURS

If a Death occurs at home and the loved one is under Hospice Care

1. Contact the Hospice Nurse.
2. A Hospice Nurse will respond to your home and make the pronouncement of death.
3. Ask the Nurse to contact Humboldt Cremation and Funeral Service at (707) 443-1104.
  - o We answer our phone 24 hours a day.

If a Death occurs at the hospital, Hospice, Nursing Home or Assisted Living Center

1. The Nurse or Physician will come to the room and make the pronouncement of death.
2. Ask the Nurse to contact Humboldt Cremation and Funeral Service at (707) 443-1104.
  - a. We are available 24 hours a day.

If a Death has occurred and the Medical Examiner or County Coroner is involved

1. Authorize the Investigator or Coroner to release the loved to Humboldt Cremation and Funeral
2. Service. Our caring staff will respond to the location of passing and will receive the loved one into our care.
3. Our staff will also contact the next of party to finalize the cremation arrangements.

## What's Next?

After your loved one is taken into our care, there are several forms and documents the next of kin of the decedent will sign.

Humboldt Cremation will give you a call soon after the passing of your loved one to confirm that you will be continuing with us and also to set up an appointment to meet with the Arrangement Counselor to go over the paper work and the cremation process.

## What to Bring to the Arrangement Meeting

Once you're scheduled with us, it might seem overwhelming what you will need. Here is a short list to help you out.

- Decedent Social Security Card
- Vital Information (This can be located on the website)
- Discharge Papers if you loved one was in the military.
- Power of Attorney Paperwork if needed
- Next of kin will need to present or come prepared with next of kin contact information

## Ordering Death Certificates

After meeting with the Arrangement Counselor, you will be asked to verify the vital information. This is the information that will go onto the Death Certificate. The price of the Death Certificate is out of Humboldt Cremations control, it is a state issued fee of \$21.00 per Death Certificate. Depending on how many you order, the price will be calculated with the total. Once the Vital Information and payment is complete, Humboldt Cremation will create the document and order them through the Humboldt County Health Department. Once the Death Certificates are printed they are returned to us. You can pick them up when they arrive or when you come to pick up your loved ones ashes.

Death Certificates can take up to a week to print in normal circumstances. Sometimes there is a back log, or difficulty locating a Doctor. We are vigilant though and work to get them printed as soon as possible.

### Ordering More Death Certificates

If you'd like to order more Death Certificates please give us a call back and we will order them for you. Or you can go directly to the County Health Department. We can accept payment when you pick them up.

## Social Security Benefits

Some of the deceased's family members may be able to receive Social Security benefits if the deceased person worked long enough under Social Security to qualify for benefits. You should get in touch with Social Security as soon as you can to make sure the family receives all of the benefits to which it may be entitled. Please read the following information carefully to learn what benefits may be available.

A one-time payment of \$255 can be paid to the surviving spouse if he or she was living with the deceased; or, if living apart, was receiving certain Social Security benefits on the deceased's record.

If there is no surviving spouse, the payment is made to a child who is eligible for benefits on the deceased's record in the month of death.

Certain family members may be eligible to receive monthly benefits, including:

- A widow or widower age 60 or older (age 50 or older if disabled)
- A surviving spouse at any age who is caring for the deceased's child under age 16 or disabled
- An unmarried child of the deceased who is younger than age 18 (or age 18 or 19 if he or she is a full-time student in an elementary or secondary school)
- or age 18 or older with a disability that began before age 22; Parents, age 62 or older, who were dependent on the deceased for at least half of their support
- and a surviving divorced spouse, under certain circumstances.

The Social Security website is a valuable resource for information about all of Social Security's programs. There are a number of things you can do online.

In addition to using the Social Security website, you can call them toll-free at 1-800-772-1213.

Staff can answer specific questions from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. They can also provide information by automated phone service 24 hours a day.

If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you may call the TTY number at 1-800-325-0778.

## Veteran Benefits

If your loved one was a veteran, you may be eligible for military service, a flag, and payment reimbursement.

- Speak to our Local Veterans office to help answer the questions you may have.  
<https://humboldt.gov/517/Veterans-Service-Office>
- Ph: 707-445-7611
- Fx: 707-476-2487

A more thorough and detailed description can be found on our websites Veterans tab. There you will find resources, links, and additional information.

When you meet with the Arrangement Counselor, please bring the veteran's Discharge Paperwork also known as DD Form 214 in order to place your order for a flag.

## Check List

### Contact Funeral Home

- Make an appointment with Arrangement Counselor
- Verify who the next of kin is and who will be making the arrangements
- Gather important documents, DD-214, Social Security, etc....

### Arrangement Meeting

- Fill out and verify Vital Information for Death Certificate
- Meet with Arrangement Counselor
- Inform Arrangement Counselor of any special requirements for cremation.

### Arrange payment

- Cremation
- Funeral Home will take care of the cremation process
- Funeral Home will take care of the cremation process
- Funeral Home will contact you when your loved one is ready to be picked up.