

alcoholism, drug addiction, strangulation, or aspiration of bolus.

11. Poisoning, either old or recent, primary, or contributory from food, chemical, drugs, or therapeutic agents).
 12. Occupational diseases or injury.
 13. Known or suspected contagious diseases and constituting a public hazard.
 14. All deaths in operating rooms and deaths where patient has not fully recovered from anesthetic, whether in surgery, recovery room, or elsewhere.
 15. In prison or jail or while under the control of a law enforcement agency.
 16. All deaths of unidentified persons or where there is no known next of kin.
 17. Suspected Sudden Infant Death Syndrome or SIDS (crib death).
 18. All deaths in which the patient is comatose throughout the period of attendance if the cause of death has not been determined. Poisoning and hidden trauma must be ruled out.
 19. All deaths occurring in state mental hospitals.
 20. All solitary deaths, if neither the attending physician nor a responsible family member has been on the premises during the time that death occurred are reportable even if a physician may know of some pre-existing illness.
- If in doubt, talk to your doctor or call the coroner's office of your county.

Santa Clara County Medical Examiner or
Coroner
850 Thornton Way, San Jose, 95128
(408) 793-1900
www.sccgov.org/sites/coroner/Pages/mec.aspx

San Mateo County Coroner
50 Tower Rd
San Mateo, CA 94402
(650) 363-4526
coroner.smcgov.org

San Francisco Medical Examiner
850 Bryant - North Terrace
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 553-1694
www.sfgov.org/med_examiner

Alameda County Coroner's Bureau 2901
Peralta Oaks Ct., 2nd Floor, CA 94607(510)
382-3000
www.alamedacountysheriff.org/cws_coroners.php

Marin County Sheriff-Coroner
3501 Civic Center Dr. Rm. 241
San Rafael, CA 949003
(415) 473-6043
marinsheriff.org

Sonoma County Coroner's Unit
3336 Chanate Road
Santa Rosa, CA
95404
(707) 565-5070

Contra Costa County Sheriff-Coroner
1960 Muir Rd., 1st Floor
Martinez, CA 94553
Ph (925) 313-2850
www.contracosta.ca.gov/205/Coroners-Division



What to Do, Who to Call When Someone You Love Dies



BAY AREA FUNERAL CONSUMERS
ASSOCIATION
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Palo Alto, CA 94303
Ph 650-321-2109 · Fax 650-561-8518
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Death Just Happened. What Shall I Do First?

If a nurse is in attendance or the deceased has been under the care of a physician, and they don't think a medical examiner or coroner is needed (see that section) take some time to quietly say farewell to your loved one. Express your words of regret and love. Say what you need to say. When you feel ready, turn to the practicalities of your situation.

Call 911 should none of the above apply.

Did the deceased want to donate organs or tissues to save another person's life? This calls for immediate action on the part of the hospital, perhaps keeping the person artificially alive until the lungs, heart, kidneys can be transferred to the next recipient. In a sense, parts of your loved one can remain alive in scores of people with this plan. The next of kin also has to give permission.

Another possibility is that your loved one intended (and prearranged it in writing) to donate his whole body to a medical school for instruction or for research. Notify the medical school immediately so it can be determined if the body is still acceptable.

A nursing home will want the body removed within an hour or two; a hospital has a room with cool storage so you have several days before the body must be removed. If the deceased is in a residence, you may keep the body at home several hours, or longer with dry ice. If the deceased wanted to be cremated, now is the time to have the close family say goodbyes, clip a lock of hair, remove jewelry, and

therapeutically wash and dress the person as you wish. If they have chosen a traditional funeral with viewing, the mortician will dress and apply makeup to the body. They will provide clothing (at an extracost) or you may supply some.

If the deceased is a member of Funeral Consumer Association, find the Planning Form and call the funeral home he or she has listed. Give them the membership number at the top of the form and advise them when you want the body to be picked up. Give the location and phone number. The funeral home may have the member's funeral plan already on file in their office, ready for implementation, or maybe not.

If the deceased's funeral plans were not previously written down, you as next of kin will have to decide on method of body disposition, what kind of rites to have, and how much to budget for this. The funeral home will need you to supply information such as the deceased's date of birth, Social Security number, military rank and discharge date, years of education, job or profession, employer, parents and their birthplace, children's and siblings' names and place of residence. (This information is for the death certificate and newspaper obituary.) Death certificates may be ordered for an extra fee through the funeral home. You will need one for each insurance policy, bank account, investment, real estate, car, and social security. All must be closed out or ownership transferred.

Call relatives, friends, and neighbors so they may provide you with support at this time. One thing they can do is form a telephone tree to notify all others. Some may want to offer baby or pet sitting, food and housing for out-of-town visitors, or

lend a hand at a Memorial or Funeral. Funeral Consumers Association has a checklist of things to do after a death. This can be copied from the website, or it can be faxed to you. BA-FCA also has a form for obituaries that is a great help to families. Obituaries published in big city news-papers cost money but are often a free service of smaller local newspapers.

When to Call the Medical Examiner or Coroner

Immediately report:

1. Unattended death—no physician in attendance or during the continued absence of the attending physician.
2. Where the decedent has not been cared for by a physician in the 20 days prior to death.
3. Physician is unable to state the cause of death (unwillingness does not apply.)
4. Known or suspected homicide.
5. Known or suspected suicide.
6. Death involving any criminal actions or suspicion of a criminal act.
7. Death related to or following known or suspected self-induced or criminal abortion.
8. Deaths associated with known or alleged rape or crimes against nature.
9. Following an accident or injury (primary or contributory). Deaths known or suspected as resulting in whole or in part from or related to accident or injury, either old or recent.
10. Drowning, fire, hanging, gunshot, stabbing, cutting, starvation, exposure,