

P L Mulligan Family Funeral Director's

A brief guide to the work of the H.M. Coroner's Office
following a sudden or unexplained death.

Why is the Coroner involved?

When a person dies, and the death is considered sudden or unexplained then the Coroner will take the deceased into their care and review the circumstances of the death in order to ascertain the cause of death. This is a requirement by law and will normally take a week or so before the deceased is released into your funeral director's care.

What happens next?

After the deceased has been taken into the Coroners care then a Coroner' Officer will contact the next of kin to discuss with them their understanding of any circumstances leading up to the death.

During the Coroners' investigation the death may be referred back to the persons Doctor to certify the death and if this is the case then the next of kin will be advised that they can register the death and make funeral arrangements. The Coroner may decide to perform a post mortem on the deceased to ascertain the cause of death, if this is the case then registration will be delayed whilst this procedure is carried-out.

When can I register the death?

The appointed Coroner's Officer will keep you informed of the progress of the Coroners' investigation into the cause of death and will advise you when you can register the death. There may be a delay whilst the cause of death is investigated.

When can I arrange the Funeral?

The funeral cannot go ahead until the Coroner's Office has completed their review of the cause of death however it is possible to begin the process so that most of the arrangements can be in place for when the Coroner's Office releases the deceased into the care of your chosen funeral director.

Useful Telephone Numbers:

South London Coroner: 020 8313 1883

Bexley Registrar: 03000 415252

A full Government Guide as to the workings of the Coroner's Office is available as a pdf file on our website www.plmulligan.co.uk

If during the time the Coroner is reviewing your loved one's death you require any further advice or information regarding arranging a funeral, then please contact us on any of the numbers listed below.

P L Mulligan Funeral Directors:

Bexleyheath: 020 8304 6196

Welling: 020 8301 4333

Sidcup: 020 8303 3313

Erith: 01322 917222

Eltham: 020 8859 2917

Bromley: 020 8464 2288

Our office opening hours are 9.30am to 4.30pm from Monday to Friday. Our Bexleyheath and Eltham Branches both open on Saturday mornings from 9.30am to 1.00pm