

*Calderdale & Greater Huddersfield
Medical Examiner Service*

Information for Bereaved Families



What is the Medical Examiner Service?

The death certification system in England and Wales has been the same for over 50 years. The government is making changes so that all deaths are reviewed either by a Medical Examiner or a Coroner. The Calderdale and Huddersfield Medical Examiner Office is an independent service, hosted by Calderdale & Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust.

Medical Examiners and their staff (known as Medical Examiner's Officers) offer bereaved families and carers an opportunity to raise any questions or concerns. They are trained professionals who are there to guide and help you during this difficult time.

Who is the Medical Examiner?

Medical Examiners are independent senior medical doctors, not involved in your relative's / loved one's care, who have completed extra training to become a Medical Examiner. Most work in the Medical Examiner office in addition to their clinical duties

What does the Medical Examiner office do?

Medical examiners and Medical examiner officers:

- Reviews the medical record/care that was provided during the last illness
- Making sure that the cause of death on the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD) is accurate
- Decide whether there should be further investigation by the coroner
- Offer an opportunity for relatives to ask questions by contacting the person listed as the 'next of kin'

What does this mean for you?

- The Medical Examiner office is informed of death by the GP practice. If you are the person listed as the 'next of kin':
 - You will be contacted by the Medical Examiner team shortly after the death.
 - You will be given the opportunity to discuss the cause of death, and care provided during the illness.
 - You will be informed whether the death needs to be referred to the coroner for further investigation. If the coroner is involved, the clinicians **will not** be able to issue an MCCD unless the HM Coroner authorises it. More information and contact details are available here:

HM Coroner's Court
Cater Building, 1 Cater Street, Bradford, BD1 5AS
Monday to Friday: 9am to 4pm Coroner's Officers can be contacted as follows:
Email: coronerswest@westyorkshire.police.uk
Telephone: 01274 373721
- The Medical Examiner office will let you know when the initial paperwork has been completed and sent to the Registration Office and how to arrange to register the death.

The Calderdale & Huddersfield Medical Examiner Office is open from:

08:00—17:00hrs Monday to Friday (except public holidays)

Telephone: 01484 35 6930 or 01484 35 6931

Email: cah-tr.medical.examiner@nhs.net

Local & National Support



Cruse - A national organisation for bereavement care
Contact: 0808 808 1677
www.cruse.org.uk

SAMARITANS

Samaritans
29 Harrison Road, Halifax, HX1 2AF
Freephone: 116 123
www.samaritans.org



The Compassionate Friends
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

Compassionate Friends - A national self help organisation for bereaved parents
14 New King Street, London, SE8 3HS
Helpline: 03451 232304
www.tcf.org.uk



We understand it is distressing to deal with a bereavement, unsolicited mail can be insensitive and upsetting during the grieving process. Our FREE service will help stop unwanted mail to the recently deceased.

0808 168 9607 from a landline
0333 006 8114 from a mobile

Calderdale & Greater Huddersfield Medical Examiner Service

Calderdale Royal Hospital
Salterhebble
Halifax
HX3 0PW
Direct Phone: 01484 35 6930 / 6931
E-mail: cah-tr.medical.examiner@nhs.net

