

What to do after the Death of a Loved One

The death of a loved one can be a difficult time and it's often hard to know what needs to be done, especially when you're confronted with so many decisions to make. Below are some helpful hints on what you can do and what information you will need if you are executor of the will.

Before anything else, a doctor must sign a death certificate. No funeral arrangements can be made without a Doctor's Certificate of Cause of Death. If there is a funeral director involved in the funeral arrangements, they will often organise for the information needed to register the death with the State Government Office. In situations where there is no funeral director, registering the death is the responsibility of the person who will be managing final arrangements.

After the funeral arrangements and registration of the death, there are some other issues that may need your attention. Things you may need to do include:

- Cancel the electricity/gas account
- Cancel the phone/internet account
- Cancel any memberships/subscriptions to organisations

When booking an appointment with your solicitor please bring along the following information (if available):

- A copy of the deceased will
- Details of insurance policies for the deceased
- Details of bank accounts and balances if possible
- Details of any shares or other investments in the deceased name
- Details of any pension claimed by the deceased
- Details of superannuation accounts if known
- Details of any other assets or liabilities

Walker Pender Group has always worked hard to make this time as stress free as possible for our clients and their families. So if you need advice, contact a member of our experienced Wills and Estates team today.