

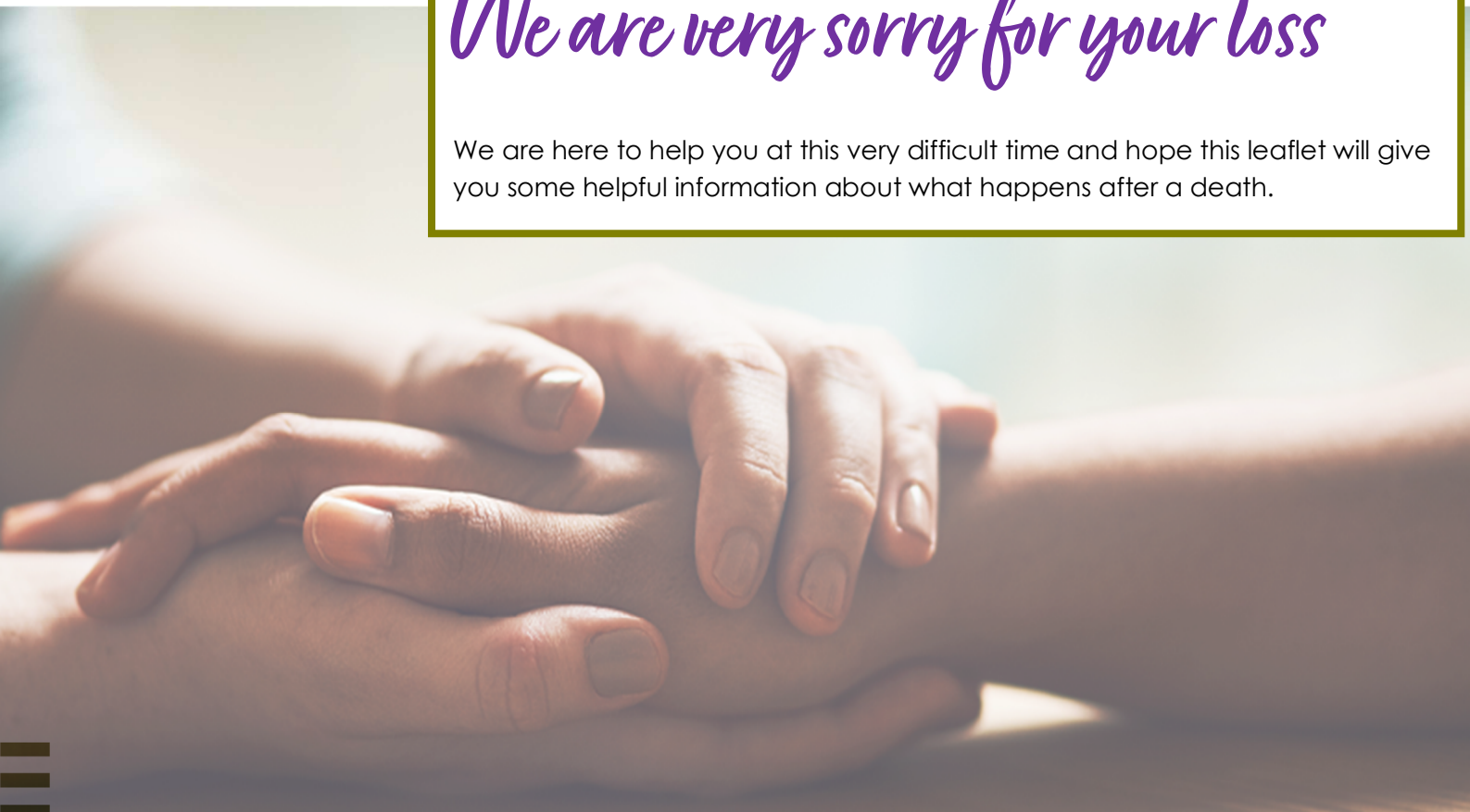
# A GUIDE FOR BEREAVED RELATIVES & FRIENDS

JULY 2024



*We are very sorry for your loss*

We are here to help you at this very difficult time and hope this leaflet will give you some helpful information about what happens after a death.



## CHANGES TO THE DEATH CERTIFICATION PROCESS

A new statutory medical examiner system was rolled out in England and Wales in April 2024 to provide independent review of all deaths that aren't referred to the coroner.

Medical examiners review medical records and work with GP's & hospital doctors to complete a medical certificate of the cause of death (MCCD), also known as the death certificate

They may also talk to the family about their experience of care and discuss and agree the proposed MCCD with them. The MCCD must be completed before the death can be registered.

## CONTACT

Please do not hesitate to telephone the practice on 01925 823502 if you have any questions or need any assistance.

We want to make this process as smooth as possible for you.

## What do these changes mean?

When the GP practice is notified of a death, the GP will need to inform the Medical Examiner of the death before they can sign the death certificate.

Information that they will need includes:

- Date/time and location of death.
- Occupation of the deceased (or last occupation if retired/not working at time of death).
- Next of kin details (name, relationship, contact details).
- Details regarding the patients recent illness and events leading up to them passing away (such as hospital admissions or operations)



The medical examiner will then carry out an independent review of the person's death.

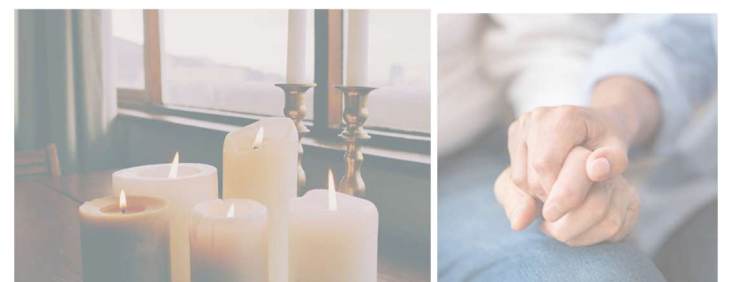
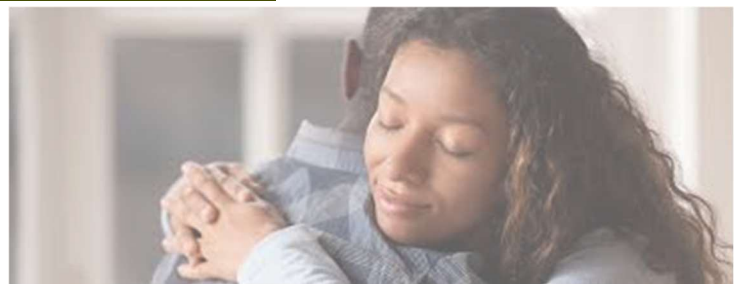
They may want to have a discussion with the next of kin to establish whether they have any concerns and offer an opportunity to ask any questions relating to the cause of death or care/treatment.

The medical examiner will then contact the GP:

- If they agree with cause of death, the MCCD will be issued by GP.
- If they advise of an alteration, this will be discussed with the GP before the GP issues a MCCD.
- They may advise a referral to the coroner for a specified reason.

Only once the GP receives confirmation back from the medical examiner of the cause of death, can the GP complete the death certificate.

Whilst we appreciate this is a difficult time for you and your family, this process can take a few days. Medical examiners make every effort to avoid delays & work closely with our GPs to make this process as smooth as possible for you.



The death certificate will then be sent electronically to the registrar in Warrington for you or your family to register your relatives death.

Please do inform the practice if your relative is to be cremated, as this requires a separate additional form to be completed with the funeral directors.