



Medical Examiner Service

What you need to know
when somebody has died

What can they help with?

The contents of the MCCD will be explained to you, and you will have a chance to ask any questions you may have regarding the care of the deceased or their last illness.

The Medical Examiner Office will be able to share any feedback to the healthcare provider. They can request a review of the notes or further investigations into the care provided to consider if there is any learning to improve the care of patients in the future.

The MCCD will not be issued until the cause of death has been reviewed by the ME Office or the Coroner's Office.

How will they contact me?

Before the MCCD is issued, you or another individual with an appropriate relationship to the deceased will receive a routine telephone call from the Medical Examiner Office.

There is no need to make contact yourself. If you would prefer that another person speak to the Medical Examiner Office, let the office know during the telephone call. You can decline to speak with the Medical Examiner Office if you want to.

Who can I contact if I haven't spoken to a Medical Examiner?

The Medical Examiner Office will make reasonable attempts to contact the deceased's Next of Kin or equivalent.

If you have any questions or concerns about the cause of death or the care provided and have not been able to speak with a Medical Examiner, please contact the Medical Examiner Office on 0117 414 0074 or email:
nbn-tr.medicalexaminer@nhs.net.

Opening hours are
Monday to Friday,
8:30am - 4:30pm.



This leaflet is for you if you have been recently bereaved, particularly if you are the deceased's Next of Kin or will be registering the death. It is designed to explain how the Medical Examiner Service is involved in the processes following someone's death.

The Medical Examiner Service has been introduced to examine all deaths in England and Wales that are not investigated by the coroner.

What is a Medical Examiner?

A Medical Examiner is an independent senior doctor specially trained in death certification that has not been involved in the care of the deceased.

What does a Medical Examiner do?

They ensure that:

- The information written on the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD) is accurate;
- Deaths needing to go to the coroner are made in a timely fashion to avoid delays;
- The bereaved have a chance to ask questions about the cause of death and reflect on the care provided.

They scrutinise medical notes and speak with the treating doctor, who is often the GP, to discuss the deceased's care and the cause of death.

The Medical Examiner Office is staffed by a team of Medical Examiners, supported by Medical Examiner Officers.

How long does the process take?

The Medical Examiner Office works closely with the deceased's doctor (often their GP) to issue the MCCD.

It is completely normal for the whole process to take several working days, so please do not be concerned if you do not hear from us straight away.

You can still engage the services of a funeral director at this time.

Will the process delay the funeral?

The Medical Examiner process should not cause any delays in registering the death or planning the funeral.

Medical Examiners work in conjunction with other services such as the coroner, the Register Office and funeral directors to ensure that every death receives the proper scrutiny without impacting on timelines irrespective of religious, cultural or family wishes.