

Community Deathcare Canada

Alberta After-death Documentation Pathway for Next of Kin

Medical Certificate of Death (MCD)



Completed by MD (if person was under care) or Medical Examiner (if person was without MD, or died under unwitnessed or suspicious circumstances). In this case, the body may or may not be transported to Examiner's office and an autopsy may or may not be performed.

Registration of Death



Take the MCD to the Vital Statistics Division in admitting dept. of your local hospital or at any AB registry office.

Death Certificate

Vital statistics creates this & the executor/eligible person can order this from a registry agent once death has been registered. Many orgs require this before decisions can be made re. estate of the deceased.

Burial Permit

Issued by Vital Statistics Dept at hospital or any AB registry office, at the same time that the death is registered. You will need to keep the Burial Permit with the body during transportation to the cemetery or crematorium.

Form 4

Required to transport a body out of the province. To obtain one, fax a copy of the MCD to the Medical Examiners' office with deceased's name, DOB and that the request is for transport. Inquire about a Zeigler Shipping Case to avoid embalming if you are traveling by plane.

Legalities to Consider - Families Transporting Bodies Themselves

Cremation

No legislation in AB requiring casket to be used in cremation, but if they are to store the body, a crematorium will request deceased to be enclosed in a combustible, rigid, leak-proof container with handles. Check with the facility to ensure your container meets their requirements.

Burial / Entombment

Cemetery operators need advanced notice of the burial and will have fees and contract for you to sign. You need to ensure if you are providing your own casket that it meets with their cemetery by-laws.

Resources

Vital Statistics – Main Office – Edmonton
780-427-7013 Extension 3
Toll-free access: call 310-0000 & enter the phone #
Ask for a Vital Statistics Specialist

[Alberta Supports Contact Centre](#)
1-877-644-9992

This Alberta Government site offers links to all resources for dealing with the administrative details of a death.

Medical Examiners Offices
Calgary
Phone: 403-297-8123 Fax: 403-297-3429
Edmonton
Phone: 780-427-7013 Fax: 780-422-1265

[Saying Farewell](#)

This guide to assist you with preplanning and with the death and dying process is prepared by the Government of Alberta. It's fairly funeral home focused, but does have a paragraph saying you can do it yourself, as well as a list of useful contacts and phone numbers.

The Act & Regulations that govern funeral, cemetery & crematoriums in Alberta sets out that a spouse, next-of-kin, or person with full knowledge of the death has the right to take charge of the body for ritual and disposition, including the filing of necessary paperwork. This documentation pathway was created by Community Deathcare Canada to help guide those who wish to take care of their own after death. Please refer to the links in the resources column for the most up-to-date information.



WITH THANKS TO SARAH KERR OF SOUL PASSAGES, CALGARY, AB
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