

Community Deathcare Canada

Ontario Funeral Documentation Pathway A resource for family-led and/or home funerals

Medical Certificate of Death (MCD)

Provided and signed by the attending MD, NP, or Coroner. Can sometimes take up to 72 hours to be issued.



Statement of Death

Signed by the Executor or Next-of-Kin (and also the funeral director, if you are using one). Available at Municipal Clerk's office.

Death Registration

Submit the MCD and Statement of Death at the Municipal Clerk's office. They will need these two documents to register the death with Vital Statistics.

Burial Permit

Issued by Municipal Clerk after the death has been registered. You will need to keep the Burial Permit with the body during transportation to the cemetery or crematorium.

Death Certificate

10-12 weeks after registering the death, you can go online to Service Canada & order a Death Certificate (or several). You will need these to close the estate, apply for the Death Benefit, close out insurance, etc. If a family requires Death Certificates faster than 10-12 wks, go in person, with the MCD & Statement of Death to the Service Ontario location at 55 Sheppard Ave E. Toronto (only this location) and if staff there agree that expedited Death Certificates are required, next of kin can register there, get the Burial Permit, apply for expedited Death Certificates & pay requisite fees. The paperwork is then flown to Thunder Bay and Death Certificates are delivered within 5 business days.

If next of kin wishes to hire funeral industry help with transport of the body, a transport service can be called up until 72 after the death, and after that a licensed funeral director must transport the body (if the family does not do transport themselves).

Cremation

Coroner's Certificate for Cremation

A certificate for cremation or a certificate to ship a body outside of Ontario must be obtained from the [office of the Chief Coroner](#).

You will need to provide the Burial Permit to the crematorium, and ensure that your casket complies with their by-laws. They may have their own forms & contracts for you to complete.

Cremated Remains

After the cremation, the cremated remains will be returned to you in a cardboard box. At this time you may choose to purchase or provide your own urn, you may choose to bury or entomb the remains in a cemetery plot or columbarium, or you may choose to keep the remains at home or scatter them in a special place.

Burial / Entombment

You will need to take the Burial Permit with you to the cemetery for burial. The 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. You will need to bring pallbearers.

Memorial Marker

Talk to the cemetery for recommendations, preferred suppliers, or specs if you plan to provide your own. Some cemeteries will have "green spaces" where simple stones, communal memorials or GPS coordinates may be used to mark the grave as opposed to traditional markers.

Resources

Service Ontario:

[How to get a copy of an Ontario death certificate online](#)

[What to do when someone dies](#)

[Request a certificate to cremate a body or ship a body out of province](#)

Other websites:

[Consumer Protection Ontario](#)

[Ministry of Government and Consumer Services Ontario](#)

[Bereavement Authority of Ontario \(BAO\)](#)

The Act & Regulations that govern funeral, cemetery & crematoriums in Ontario sets out that a named family member or next-of-kin has the right to take charge of the body for ritual and disposition, including the filing of necessary paperwork.

This documentation pathway was created as an aid 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.

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