

WHEN A CORONER IS INVOLVED

A coroner is an appointed public official. In Ontario as outlined in the Coroner's Act, cases that fall under the jurisdiction of the coroner include:

- Sudden and unexpected deaths,
- Deaths from violence,
- Suicides; and,
- Those occurring in any suspicious, unusual or unnatural manner.

A coroner can order an autopsy. This is performed to determine the cause or time of death but also may be to identify the deceased.

Information pertaining to the death may be obtained from the coroner. On written request, a copy of the Coroner's Investigation Statement (can take several months to complete). There is a cost, and sometimes cover that cost depending on the situation.

Once the coroner releases the deceased to the family, transportation can be arranged with a funeral home or other service provider.

RESOURCES

London Police Service – Crisis Intervention/ Victim Support Unit & Victim Services Middlesex London (519) 661-5636

Provides victims of crime and/or traumatic circumstances with immediate support and referrals to available programs and services.

Reach Out (519) 433-2023 – is a free, 24/7, confidential mental health and addictions support and services line for people living in Elgin, Middlesex and Oxford and London.

Mental Health & Addictions Crisis Centre

The Mental Health and Addictions Crisis Centre is open 24/7 if you are a high risk of suicide, experiencing personal distress or symptoms of a mental illness or if you would benefit from talking to someone to initiate stabilizing supports. The Crisis Centre supports individuals who are 16 and older. 648 Huron Street, London, ON

Victim Quick Response Program+

You may be eligible for financial assistance with funeral expenses, crime scene clean-up, homicide survivor support, and counselling. Please contact the Crisis Intervention/Victim Support Unit with London Police Service at 519-661-5636.



LONDON POLICE SERVICE
601 Dundas Street
London, ON N6B 1X1
Phone: 519.661.5670
www.londonpolice.ca

LONDON POLICE SERVICE DEALING WITH GRIEVING AND DEATH



**DEEDS
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DEALING WITH DEATH

When a death occurs, officials will attend the residence where it has been reported or to notify family members. Some of the most common advice provided during this time, include:

- To gather your support systems around you for strength and encouragement during this difficult time
- To notify the people closest to you about the death and ask them to let other family know
- To advise if your house needs cleaning due to the death. Cleaning yourself may hinder the work of police investigators. Before hiring a local service to clean, check with your insurance company first.
- To call your insurance company for next steps
- To deal with legal matters (locate the will, determine the number of death certificates you need, begin filing insurance or other related claims)

Know that the police may call on you to identify the deceased, answer questions or reclaim personal belongings.

Above all, get some rest and take care of your own health.

MAKING FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

Funeral arrangements should be made as soon as possible with the assistance of a funeral home. Be prepared to discuss:

- Suitable dates and times
- A designated charity for memorial donations
- Financial arrangements
- Burial/cremation, visitation, and viewing
- Type of service you would like (eg. style of service, religious/non-religious)

A funeral home is responsible for:

- Transporting the deceased
- Preparation and embalming
- Organizing and staffing the service
- Composing and releasing the obituary
- Filling the death certificate and providing copies to you
- Administrative and ceremonial arrangements, and
- Courtesy referrals to other services as needed

Cost depends entirely on the services selected by you.

GRIEVING

The death of a person close to you is always a very painful and difficult experience. You will probably have strong feelings overtime, and sometimes they may seem overwhelming. You may experience shortness of breath, loss of appetite, feelings of vulnerability, guilt, lack of interest, forgetfulness and more. These reactions are normal. However, if they persist, seek professional help.

Let others know they are not alone, and remember mourning for your loved one is normal and an important part of your recovery. Give yourself time to heal and put off any major changes or decisions.

Pay close attention to children-they need to grieve as much as adults. However, they may share grief in different ways. Children need to feel safe, loved, and cared for. Use simple and direct language to explain that a loved one has died. Some guidelines include:

- Answer their questions in a way that satisfies them -give a brief explanation and answer in a language level that the child easily understands,
- Don't be afraid to use words like dead and death,
- Children should understand death is permanent, and loved ones will not be coming back,
- Let children know that it is okay to show emotions, and;
- Reassure the child that he or she is loved and cared for by others.