



STEPS TO TAKE WHEN A LOVED ONE *Passes Away at Home*



1 CONFIRM THE DEATH

- If the death was expected (e.g., due to hospice care), contact the hospice nurse or attending physician to confirm the death.
- If the death was unexpected, call 911 and report it immediately.
 - Inform them if the person had a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order.
 - Paramedics will guide the next steps, which may include notifying law enforcement.



2 NOTIFY THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES

- If hospice is involved, they will handle legal procedures, including contacting the funeral home or coroner.
- If no hospice care was in place:
 - Contact the local medical examiner or coroner to report the death.
 - They will issue a pronouncement of death or guide further steps.



3 CONTACT A FUNERAL HOME

- Research or call the chosen funeral home to arrange transport for your loved one.
- Provide them with information about burial, cremation, or other arrangements you may want to begin discussing.



4 GATHER IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

- Locate the deceased's:
 - Will or advance directive
 - DNR order (if applicable)
 - Identification documents (ID, passport, or Social Security card)
- Check for any pre-planned funeral or burial arrangements.



5 INFORM FAMILY AND CLOSE FRIENDS

- Notify immediate family members and close friends first. Consider delegating calls or messages to ease the burden.
- Decide on how and when to share the news more broadly.



6 BEGIN NECESSARY LEGAL AND FINANCIAL TASKS

- Obtain multiple copies of the death certificate from the funeral home.
- Notify Social Security and other agencies if the deceased was receiving benefits.
- Begin notifying banks, insurance companies, and employers as needed.



7 PLAN THE FUNERAL OR MEMORIAL

- Meet with the funeral director to finalize arrangements.
- Decide on burial, cremation, or other services based on the deceased's wishes.
- Arrange for any religious, cultural, or personal preferences to be included.

Take it one  step at a time.

There is no right or wrong way to navigate this.

Be gentle with yourself, lean on your support system, and remember—you are not alone.

