

# STEPS TO TAKE WHEN A LOVED ONE *Passes in the Hospital*



## 1 SPEAK WITH HOSPITAL STAFF

- The attending physician or nurse will confirm the death and provide you with the necessary documentation (e.g., time of death).
- Request copies of any medical reports or records you may need.



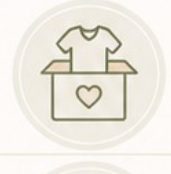
## 2 DECIDE ON FUNERAL HOME ARRANGEMENTS

- If a funeral home was pre-selected, inform the hospital and provide their contact information.
- If no arrangements have been made, ask the hospital for a list of local funeral homes.



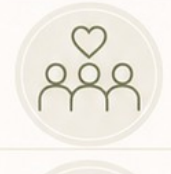
## 3 REQUEST A DEATH CERTIFICATE

- Most hospitals will begin the process of preparing the death certificate.
- Ensure all details (e.g., correct spelling of names) are accurate.
- Request multiple certified copies for legal purposes.



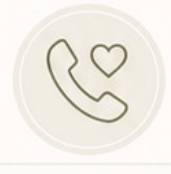
## 4 GATHER PERSONAL BELONGINGS

- Collect any personal items the hospital has from the deceased, including clothing, jewelry, or paperwork.



## 5 NOTIFY FAMILY AND CLOSE FRIENDS

- Call immediate family members to inform them of the passing.
- Work with family to decide how to share the news with others.



## 6 CONTACT THE FUNERAL HOME

- Arrange transportation of the deceased from the hospital to the funeral home.
- Begin discussing burial, cremation, or memorial services based on preferences.



## 7 MEET WITH THE FUNERAL DIRECTOR

- Bring important documents (e.g., the will, insurance policies, or burial plan) to the meeting.
- Discuss and finalize the arrangements for the service, obituary, and burial or cremation.



## 8 BEGIN LEGAL AND FINANCIAL PROCESSES

- Notify Social Security and other benefit providers.
- Inform employers, banks, and insurance companies.
- Review the will or trust to understand next steps for managing the estate.



*Take 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.

