

Practical Matters

Practical Matters and information that may be of assistance to you after a person has died:

1. Wills

After contacting the funeral director, it is important to locate the Will of the deceased person, as this may contain instructions for the funeral. The executor named in the Will, with legal advice, will handle the settlement.

If a Will does not exist, then you will need to seek advice on Intestacy (dying without a Will) and on how the estate can be administered.

Advice on Wills, Intestacy and Probate can be provided by a private solicitor, State Trustees or the Legal Aid Commission.

Social Work staff at the hospital or hospice are also available to give some guidance about whom to contact.

2. Other Practical Matters

The following tasks need to be attended to in the first week or so:

Carer Allowance and/or other Pension:

- Contact your local CENTRELINK office or dial the pensions section on 132 717
- Cancel the pension of the deceased person. You should be entitled to one final pension payment. You will need to prove the date of death.
- The Carer Payment may continue for seven fortnights and there is a Bereavement Payment. You need to check if you are eligible for the Bereavement Payment.
- The Aged Single Pension will continue to the spouse where applicable.

Bank Accounts:

Inform the bank where there are current accounts. Payments for the funeral can be made from the deceased person's account even if it is in their name only. A copy of the death certificate is sometimes required. Check with the Bank Manager about this.

Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA):

Contact DVA to cancel any benefits. (or have them transferred to the person's spouse, where applicable)

Other tasks

In the following weeks/months you may need to change/cancel:

- The car registration and / or insurance and driver's license
- Taxi concession cards
- Accounts in the deceased person's name (for example: gas, electricity, phone, water, rates, rent). It is okay to wait for the account to arrive before changing the name.
- The electoral roll.
- Your house title if it is in joint names.
- Medicare and any health insurance. You may also be entitled to a refund.
- Club memberships (for example: sporting clubs, Rotary, RACV, etc).
- Any outstanding appointments (for example: doctor, hospital etc).

If you have any questions about any of this information, the Social Worker at St. Vincent's or St. Georges Hospital or at Caritas Christi may be able to assist you.

Telephone

CCH Kew: 9853 2344
St. Vincent's: 9288 2211

CCH Fitzroy: 9288 4697
St. George's: 9272 0444