

## **PUBLIC EXPERIENCE - No. 115**

### **REQUEST**

What arrangements take place when a death occurs of someone who lives within the council area and there are no funeral arrangements made by family?

Does the council take on the role for arranging a funeral?

If the council is unable to locate the family, who would normally attend the funeral?

Are these people paid to attend the funeral?

What are the factors for deciding whether the funeral should be a cremation or burial?

Are there any other types of funerals provided by the council?

If the funeral is a cremation, what is the name of the cremation centre that is used by the council?

If the funeral is a burial, what is the name of cemetery that is used by the council?

Are the funeral costs inclusive of the costs of the people attending the funeral?

For the funerals that the council have dealt with since the beginning of the year 2013:

Was the funeral a cremation, burial or other? (please specify if other)

What information is collated to decide what type of funeral needs to be take place?

Who attended the funeral?

Did family members attend the funeral?

How much did the funeral cost?

How long did it take to arrange the funeral from the time of death?

Between the time of death and time of funeral where is the body of the deceased kept? Give name of person in charge and/or address of location.

Does it charge the council to keep the body of the deceased in between the time of death and time of funeral? How much did it cost? Are these costs included in 'funeral costs'?

What is the maximum length of time that the body can be kept elsewhere while funeral arrangements are being made?

What is the name of the deceased?

What is the date of death and date of birth of the deceased?

What is the residential address?

Has the information been sent to other governing bodies?

What is the name of the governing body/bodies?

Has the information been sent to Treasury Solicitor, Duchy, Queen's & Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer, National Ultimus Haeres Unit (or the equivalent of)?

### **RESPONSE**

I also attach a table which will also give further answers to questions.

1. If requested / instructed Tendring District Council will undertake the funeral arrangements and a normal funeral service is provided.
2. The Council will undertake the role of arranging the funeral if the case meets the criteria or it has been referred to us by the local Coroners Office, or there is no known next of kin, or the next of kin are unwilling or unable to undertake the arrangements.
3. Funeral Directors and Council employees – we will inform known family / friends / carers / acquaintances of date and time of the funeral.

4. Council employees will attend as part of our role and the funeral directors will also be in attendance, as per their contractual agreement with the Local Authority.
5. We ask known family / friends / carers / acquaintances / check their "Care Plan" if applicable / check the Councils Cemetery register to see if a plot is registered to the deceased – if we are unable to ascertain the wishes of the deceased a cremation will take place with a Church of England service.
6. We normally have C of E services, but we also have had Catholic Burials, Roman Catholic burials and recently a Jewish Burial
7. Weeley crematorium
8. Dependant on circumstance and last residential address of deceased – Council owns three cemeteries – Clacton-on-Sea, Kirby, Dovercourt
9. Yes
10. See attached table and questions below –

***What information is collated to decide what type of funeral needs to take place?***

We check with any known associates / cemeteries register

***Who attended the funeral?***

Our contracted funeral directors attend the funeral service and at least one Council employee will attend – we do not keep a register of which individuals attend the services

***Did family members attend the funeral?***

Unknown

***Between the time of death and time of funeral where is the body of the deceased kept? Give name of person in charge and / or address of location?***

Our current contracted Funeral Directors are: Paskells Funeral Service, Manningtree, Essex CO11 1AG

***Does it charge the Council to keep the body of the deceased between the time of death and the funeral? How much does it cost? Are these included in the funeral costs?***

Inclusive of price

***What is the maximum length of time that a body can be kept elsewhere while funeral arrangements are being made?***

Unknown

NB: Question relating to notification of Governing Bodies – when registering the deceased's death, Tendring District Council make use of the "One Stop" service by the Registrars office.

