

Here's a clear, practical checklist designed for whether you have a strong support network or are largely handling things on your own. It focuses on what needs to happen after a death – but beyond the first 5 days.

Is it time for a cuppa and a chat?

Next steps after registering a death

- Locate important documents. Look for:
 - Will
 - Funeral Plan
 - Insurance policies
 - Bank details
 - Pensions documents



If you don't know where these are, you can ask family members, their bank, their solicitor (if you know who that is)

First actions - is there a will?

- If you can find a will, it should list an executor. If the executor is willing and able
- If there is no will, and/or no executor, then the next of kin usually takes responsibility
- If there is no next of kin, then organisations like Hoopers Probate Genealogy can help

Second actions - what to do with the body?

- Had the person made their wishes about what happens to their body known? If so, you can start making those arrangements
- If you do not know the person's wishes, it will be your decision about whether a burial or a cremation

The person who arranges the funeral is immediately responsible for paying the bill, but the costs are usually covered by the deceased's estate, with family members (if identified) stepping in if necessary

Third actions - who else needs to know?

Not necessarily right away, but consider contacting:

- An employer or pension provider
- Banks or building societies
- Utility providers
- Care providers (if applicable)

Take care of yourself

- Shock, grief and/or feeling overwhelmed can affect memory and decision-making
- Write things down
- Accept help if offered
- If you are alone, you can consider getting support from:
 - Cruse Bereavement Support
 - Local Council services
 - Faith or community services



If you have limited support

- Ask professionals questions - funeral and registrars expect it
- Keep all paperwork in one place
- Take everything one step at a time - nothing needs to be perfect immediately
- Consider asking your GP about local bereavement or practical support services

Financial matters

- Review income and expenses - especially if the deceased handled the finances
- If you are a spouse, check entitlement to benefits or support such as Bereavement Support Payment or pension changes
- Cancel or transfer subscriptions and services
- Check for outstanding debts or liabilities

Practical living arrangements

- If you were sharing a home, is it still suitable and/or affordable?
- Update household tasks (bills, maintenance etc)
- Secure important documents in one place

Gentle forward planning

Think about short-term goals (next few weeks/months) NOT big life overhauls. Some suggest that no large decisions should be made for at least 6 months