

First 24 Hours After a Death Checklist

There's no need to do all of this today. Close family and the funeral home come first - the rest can wait.

Right Away

- ☐ Confirm the death has been pronounced by medical staff or emergency services
- ☐ Call a funeral home - they can guide you through most of what follows
- ☐ Notify closest family members
- ☐ Locate any existing funeral pre-arrangement or pre-need plan, if one exists

Within the First Day

- ☐ Contact family and close friends who need to travel, so they have time to arrange it
- ☐ Arrange care for any dependents or pets who relied on the person
- ☐ Secure the home if the person lived alone

Within a Day or Two

- ☐ Notify the person's employer, if applicable
- ☐ Begin notifying wider family and friends
- ☐ Ask the funeral home how many certified copies of the death certificate you'll likely need

This Can Genuinely Wait

- ☐ Deciding on a full funeral or memorial format
- ☐ Writing the obituary
- ☐ Closing financial accounts and notifying all institutions
- ☐ Sorting through belongings