Staff at St Benedict’s Hospice assure you of their support at this time of your bereavement.

We hope this booklet helps you through some of the practical stages following bereavement and lets you know the different types of support available.

If you would like to know more please ask one of the staff now, or contact us at any time on 0191 569 9195.
Issuing of death certificate

You will be given a medical certificate stating cause of death issued by one of our doctors. This will only be delayed if the circumstances relating to your relative’s death requires the input of a coroner and this will be discussed with you.

Your relative’s belongings

In most circumstances all belongings will be returned at a time that is most convenient to you and you will be asked to acknowledge their return.

Registration of death

To register a death you will need to make an appointment to take the death certificate to the Registrar’s Office at the Civic Centre in Sunderland within five days.

The Civic Centre in Sunderland is open;

Monday – Thursday  9.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.
Friday            9.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.
Telephone:        0191 520 5509
The Registrar will ask you for the following information;

- Full name and address (maiden name if appropriate)
- The date and place of death
- Date and place of birth
- Occupation and occupation of spouse / partner
- State pensions and benefits received
  (don’t worry if you are not sure)
- Name and date of birth of any surviving widow or widower

Certificates

The Registrar will give you a green certificate (form 9) to give to the Funeral Director which will enable them to proceed with the funeral arrangements and you will be given a certificate you may need to send to your local Social Security Office.

The Medical Certificate of cause of death remains with the registrar and you will be issued with the Death Certificate. There is a small charge of £3.50 for this and any copies you may need for insurance, bank account or other purposes.

Organising the funeral

Funeral directors can be contacted before you have registered the death and will visit you at home to help and advise you on the necessary arrangements. You will need to give them the green form from the registrar and the release form given to you at the hospice.
Help with funeral costs

Some assistance towards funeral expenses may be available to you. The booklet in this pack ‘What to do after a death in England and Wales’ will help with any queries you may have.

Bereavement support

In a few weeks’ time, one of our nurses will phone you to see how you are. You can also phone the hospice and talk to someone at any time.

In about six weeks’ time, you will receive an invitation to our Bereavement Support Group. This is held on the first Wednesday of every month (except January) at the following times:

- Bereavement Service: 4.00pm in St Benedict’s Chapel (opposite the dining room).
- Bereavement Support Group: 4.15pm in St Benedict’s Hospice Day Care Unit.

Here there is an opportunity to discuss how you are, over a cup of tea.

There will also be invitations to our ‘Light up a Life’ service in December and our Annual Remembrance Service in January.
Other support

Because grief is an individual journey, you may find support in totally unexpected people and places.

If you would like support from somewhere other than the hospice, the following organisations are around to help:

Sunderland Counselling Services; offer a range of counselling and support services, both group and individual sessions are available and they also have bereavement counsellors for Children 0191 5147007 office@sunderlandcounselling.org.uk

The Samaritans; national helpline; 0191 567 7177
www.samaritans.org.uk

Your own doctor (GP) – some practices have their own counsellors.

Winston’s wish Family Line; for children who have been bereaved; telephone help and advice; 08452 03 04 05
info@winstonswish.org.uk

Or you may like to use the Internet: www.winstonswish.org.uk
or www.riprap.org.uk for additional information.

Community Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS); support or advice to aid mental health and promotion of positive wellbeing for children aged 0-18 with excellent links with schools, G.P’s, Health Visitors, school nurses and other specialist services who can refer you to them.
Our thoughts are with you over the coming days. Please contact us if you need more information or just a chat.

“She whom I have loved and lost, is no longer where she was. She is wherever I am.”
(4th century prayer)
Further information please contact:
St Benedict’s Hospice
Monkwearmouth Hospital
Newcastle Road, Sunderland SR5 1NB
Telephone: (0191) 569 9195
Fax: (0191) 569 9253
www.hospice.co.uk

NHS South of Tyne and Wear (serving Gateshead Primary Care Trust, South Tyneside Primary Care Trust and Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust) is committed to raising the standard of written information for patients, their carers, people who use the NHS and the general public.

For further copies of this leaflet or if you require this information in another format or language please contact: St Benedict’s Hospice
Tel: (0191) 569 9195

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Working together to make South of Tyne and Wear
HEALTHY FOR YOU