



Providing Care for a Loved One Before the Funeral Director Arrives

Ongoing Care and Support



Caring for a loved one in their final moments is both a challenging and meaningful experience. Ensuring that they are surrounded by familiar surroundings, comforting sounds, and cherished family members can be deeply significant.

When death occurs, many families choose to take a moment to reflect and be present in these final moments.

Spending time with the deceased is a natural continuation of their care journey. It can provide closure for caregivers, offering a sense of fulfilment and completion in their role. During this period, family members and carers may need to carry out specific tasks before the funeral director assumes responsibility.

At Rosetown Funerals, we recognise the value of families maintaining their care for their loved one in the hours following their passing, allowing them to decide when they are ready for the funeral director to take over.

This guide provides practical steps to support you during this time, helping you navigate these initial hours with care and compassion.

- Notify the hospice or GP about the passing.
- Contact Rosetown Funerals to arrange their services once confirmation is received from the GP or hospice that the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death will be issued.





Practical Steps for Care

- Turn off any electric blankets and remove hot water bottles from the bed.
- Ensure any heating or fans in the room are not directed towards the deceased.
- If your loved one is resting on their side, gently reposition them onto their back.
- Place a pillow under their head to keep it elevated slightly above the lower body. If using a hospice-provided bed, adjust the foot end if necessary.
- If the mouth is open, it can remain so. Traditional methods of closing the mouth, such as using a towel or bandage, may cause skin damage and create difficulties in later preparations.
- If windows are open, allow fresh air to circulate but be mindful of insects and close them if leaving the room unattended.
- Gently apply the provided moisturiser to the hands and face to maintain hydration over the next few hours.
- Feel comfortable holding their hand and touching their face. Skin can be delicate, particularly around the eyelids and cheeks. Excessive kissing may lead to skin dehydration or darkening in certain areas.
- Choose suitable clothing for your loved one. Select attire that reflects their personality and something they would have enjoyed wearing, keeping in mind colour preferences and who will be present for viewings.
- If your loved one remains in your care for an extended period, some changes in skin colour, particularly around the ears, neck, or lips, may become noticeable. This is a natural part of the process.
- You may observe an initial warmth in the body, which will gradually cool over time as the temperature stabilises with the surroundings.

Seeking Further Support

This period can be deeply meaningful for families. If you have any concerns or questions about caring for your loved one, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Your Funeral Director is available to provide guidance and answer any questions you may have. Additionally, hospice staff or your GP can offer further advice regarding aspects of end-of-life care.

To speak with one of our Funeral Directors, please refer to the contact details provided below.



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