

Need more help?

For more information and advice please contact the Environmental Protection Team on: 0300 1234 212 who will be happy to help.

Prepared by:

Environmental Protection

Public Protection

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If you would like this information in another format please contact:

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Email: **enquiries@cornwall.gov.uk**

www.cornwall.gov.uk

Public Health Funerals

FACTSHEET

The Council understands that this can be a distressing time for friends and relatives who have recently experienced loss of a loved one. Whilst we have sympathy for those affected, the Council can only provide funeral services within certain legal guidelines as stated below:

Cornwall Council has a duty under Section 46 of the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 to cause to be buried or cremated the body of any person who has died or been found dead in their area, in any case where it appears to the local authority that no suitable arrangements have been or are being made otherwise than by the local authority (S.46(1)).

What Service does Cornwall Council provide?

Cornwall Council can, dependent on the required criteria being met provide a basic service for Public Health Funerals. This is to ensure that we are conforming to the legislation and that costs are kept to a minimum.

The Funeral Service provided includes the following:

- Collection of the deceased
- A basic coffin
- Fees for the crematorium/burial
- One hearse

Unfortunately the Council is not able to provide the following:

- Flowers
- A church service
- Music choices
- The opportunity for eulogies to be given
- The releasing of ashes (these will be scattered at the crematorium)
- A gravestone (in the event of a burial taking place)
- The viewing of the deceased

Please note the following important information:

When Cornwall Council make the arrangements for Public Health Funerals there is a set charge (no VAT is included).

In addition there are also the funeral undertaker fees at cost and any additional costs that are also incurred by Cornwall Council. The Council has a legal right to reclaim these costs and will always endeavour to seek to recover these costs from the estate of the deceased.

For details of the current set charge, please refer to the 'need more help' section of this leaflet

Useful financial advice:

You may be able to claim a Funeral Payment from the social fund using form SF200 or over the phone. You must claim within 6 months of the funeral.
Telephone: 0345 606 0265

If you need assistance to access funding, the Citizens Advice Bureau may be able to help. www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Where affordability is an issue, there are also a number of funeral directors in Cornwall who offer direct funeral services for families on low incomes. This involves a simple funeral service for a low fixed price.

Further useful information on financial assistance such as budget loans that may be available can be sought from www.direct.gov.uk (what to do after someone dies)