

Helpful Information Following A Death

The following information is offered as a general guide to help you work through the financial and/or legal issues during the first few months following death. If more information is needed, an experienced trusts and estate attorney can assist you.

Durable Medical Equipment (DME)

You may have rental DME left in your home after the death of a loved one. Hospice of Southern Kentucky notifies the DME company that you no longer need the equipment. If you have not heard from the company within two business days after your loved one's death, please call Hospice of Southern Kentucky at 270-746-9300 and we will follow up with the DME company.

Medical Supplies

Often there is a surplus of medical supplies left in your home. If you would like to return unused medical supplies (not medications) or equipment, please call Hospice of Southern Kentucky at 270-746-9387 to see if someone is available to come pick up what you no longer need. You may also return supplies directly to the office on Scottsville Rd.

Death Certificates

Funeral homes start the process to complete a death certificate and can help you decide how many certificates are needed. Several copies are usually needed; one to keep, one for each insurance policy, checking or savings accounts, properties, stock, bonds, or mutual funds. Keep extra death certificates to send with your income tax return.

Death Certificates must be signed by a physician and submitted to the appropriate state office. This process could take up to three weeks. If you have not received the death certificate within three weeks, you should contact the funeral home to inquire about the process and get an estimate of how much longer it might take.

Medical Records

There may be times when you need a copy of your loved one's medical record from Hospice of Southern Kentucky. For example, cancer policies often require parts of a medical record to process claims. If you need a copy of the medical record, here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Hospice of Southern Kentucky must comply with federal regulations regarding the release of protected health information, including medical records.
- All requests for medical records must be in writing and accompanied by a completed authorization form.