



DEATH VERIFICATION & CERTIFICATION

Further to the publication of The Coronavirus Act 2020, new laws came into effect on 28th March 2020 regarding death certification and referral to the Coroner.

The new Act confirmed that:

- For completion of MCCD, attendance by the doctor who 'attended' the deceased during their last illness can be in person or by video link.
- Attendance was in the previous 28 days (extended from 14).
- Any registered doctor can sign an MCCD, even if there was no attendance during their last illness and not seen after death, provided they can state the cause of death to the best of their knowledge and belief. The registrar can register the death.
- If there was no attendance within 28 days or after death, the registrar would need to refer to the Coroner. In this circumstance the Coroner can complete a Form 100A if they decide it is appropriate to do so.
- During the emergency period a doctor only needs to notify the Coroner when there no other medical practitioner to sign the MCCD or a medical practitioner is not available within a reasonable time of the person's death to do so.
- During this emergency period completion of CREM 5 is suspended.

There has been confusion regarding completion of CREM 4 and "attended" after death. The Emergency Act says that if the deceased has not been seen 28 days before death (in person or video) or **viewed** the body after death, **viewing means in person**. Please note the following:

- A crematorium medical referee may accept a CREM4 where the deceased has **not** been seen within 28 days before death or after death **but where the death has been registered with an MCCD supported by a Form 100A**.
- It is open to the medical referee to consult the Coroner's Office, should s/he so wish to do so, before authorising the cremation.

During this time of crisis LMC advise is that GP's do **not** attend in person to view the body of a deceased person. Anyone can confirm a death, including family members and funeral directors. On behalf of the Coroner's Office please try to ensure that only referrals within the Essex Coroner's jurisdiction are referred into the service.

Our message to you is to stay safe and well.

3rd April 2020