



Public Health Funerals/ Assisted Funerals

Under Section 46 of the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 we have a duty to bury any person who has died or 'found to be dead' in the Brentwood area in any case 'where it appears to the local authority that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been or are being made'.

This means that we are responsible for making sure that anyone who dies in (or is found deceased in) Brentwood is properly buried or cremated if suitable arrangements have not been made.

We are also responsible for making sure that anyone who dies while being provided with accommodation under Part III of the National Assistance Act 1984 is buried or cremated properly.

If the Council arrange a funeral, we can recover the costs from the estate of the person who has died (the deceased), if an estate is in existence.

Unless we know that the deceased wanted to be cremated, we will arrange a burial. The deceased will be removed from the place of death and stored at an appropriate location. The funeral director will provide a dignified funeral, including a suitable basic coffin, and will be taken to the cemetery in a motor hearse with four bearers and leader.

The funeral will be conducted in a respectable way so that anyone who sees it, could not see it as being different from any other funeral service.

We will not usually become involved if funeral arrangements have already been made or the funeral has already taken place. Anyone making arrangements with a funeral director will be responsible for any costs involved.

Upon completion of the burial/ interment the Council will also make arrangements for a suitable memorial stone to be placed on the grave.

Help from the Department for Work and Pensions

If you are having trouble paying for a funeral that you have arranged, you may be able to get a Funeral Payment from the Social Fund to help you with the costs.

To see if you qualify and for further information please see the direct.gov.uk website under 'Funeral Payments' or ask at your local Jobcentre Plus.