

# Susan Whymark Funeral Service Ltd

Independent and Family Run



## Cremation Regulations 2008



Medical referees are only available at certain times of the day and all crematoria vary their timings so if you would like to see the medical referee in person you will have to make an appointment

West Suffolk Crematorium, Bury St. Edmunds  
Contact the Manager – Royna on 01284 755118

Ipswich Crematorium  
Contact the Cemeteries office on 01473 433580

Earlham Crematorium, Norwich  
Contact the Manager – Karen Walford on 01603 456350

St. Faith's Crematorium, Horsham St. Faith, Norwich  
Contact the general office on 01603 897727

Seven Hills Crematorium, Nacton, Ipswich  
Contact the general office on 01473 655614

Following recent important changes in the Cremation Regulations Susan Whymark Funeral Service has produced this leaflet with guidance from the National Association of Funeral Directors and the Ministry of Justice.

Following your meeting with us to make the arrangements for the proposed cremation, you should have been made clearly aware of what these regulations mean to you and what your rights are with regard to the cremation forms and paperwork.

This leaflet gives the official wording from the Ministry of Justice to explain your rights and the effect they have on you. If you feel these regulations were not explained to you properly, you feel there was too much information to take in at this time and this leaflet does not help, please do not hesitate to contact us when we will happily go through them again with you.

It is our job to make sure you have understood the Cremation Regulations 2008.

## CREMATION REGULATIONS 2008 – YOUR RIGHT TO INSPECT THE MEDICAL CERTIFICATES

You have applied for cremation and that means that you have the right to inspect the medical forms about the death of the deceased. Inspection of the forms will take place before the cremation is authorised by the Medical Referee (that is the Doctor attached to the crematorium).

Part 5 of the application for cremation form deals with this right. Please read it carefully. The funeral director will have explained this right to you, but you might find it helpful to have something in writing as well.

There are two medical forms. One is completed by the Doctor who treated the deceased during his or her last illness, the other by a Doctor who did not treat the deceased and who is independent of the first Doctor. The second Doctor has to examine the deceased, and discuss the death with the first Doctor and at least one other person.

If you know the cause of death and have no problems with that cause you may decide that there is very little reason why you need to inspect these forms. However, if you do have doubts or were surprised that the death happened when it did, you may decide that you would like to inspect them.

You can nominate someone else to inspect the forms on your behalf. You might want to do this, for example, if you think someone else would be in a better position to go through the forms (perhaps because that person was present at the death and you were not).

If you already have serious concerns about the death and believe the case should be investigated by a Coroner, you should contact the Coroner's office right away. Your funeral director will be able to provide contact details and other assistance. Where the death is unnatural or violent, it should have already been referred to a Coroner by a Doctor or by the Police.

The forms will be available for inspection at the crematorium office for up to 48 hours after you are informed that they have been received there. It is important that you can be contacted during this period.

The Medical Referee may be able to give you advice on the cause of death, but he or she may charge a fee for this service. As the Referee is often also a working Doctor, you will need to take account of this when arranging the meeting.

If you want the funeral to be held within the next two or three days, it could be difficult to do this and also inspect the medical forms.

The medical referee is a Doctor (usually still in practice) who inspects all cremation documents before a cremation can take place. There is a medical referee attached to each and every crematorium in the country. You may if you wish ask for an appointment to see the medical referee at the crematorium you have chosen to use. Listed on the next page are the contact details for local crematoria.

On the back of this leaflet are the contact details for the local coroner's offices should you need them. If the coroner's jurisdiction is not listed overleaf please do not hesitate to contact us and we will find details of the correct coroner's office for you.

## Contact details for local coroners offices:

Suffolk Coroners office  
Coroner's Officer Louise Bradford  
Tel: 01473 613888  
Based at Ipswich Police Station

Norwich Coroners Office  
General office Tel: 01603 663302  
Based at 124 Barrack Street, Norwich

**Susan Whymark Funeral Service Ltd**  
Chestnut House, 12 Progress Road,  
Langton Green, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 7HU  
Tel: 01379 871168 Fax: 01379 871508

31 Redenhall Road, Harleston IP20 9HE  
Tel: 01379 851253

email: [susan@susanwhymark.co.uk](mailto:susan@susanwhymark.co.uk)  
[www.susanwhymark.co.uk](http://www.susanwhymark.co.uk)

Registered in England and Wales under Company Registration Number 4970902  
(Revised October 2013)