

COVID-19 Briefing for the Funeral Industry – Death and Still-birth Registrations During the Pandemic Period

- Scotland has now started a period of ‘remote’ registration in order to cut down unnecessary physical contact during the pandemic period
- This will last until further notice, and be under active review
- Powers were taken in the recent Coronavirus Act 2020 to allow the provision of information to registrars by telephone or other electronic means, the use of scanned electronic copies of key documents, and attestation by the use of transcribed informant signatures
- A power was also taken to allow funeral directors, where they are willing, have the family’s permission and are already arranging the deceased’s funeral, to serve as an informant to a death registration as a first choice
- It is important to note that this does not place any duty on a funeral director to serve in this capacity
- NRS has designed the remote registration process to feel and operate as much like ordinary registration as possible
- Relevant aspects of the new system for the funeral industry are:
 - The ability of funeral directors to serve as informant to a death on behalf of a family
 - The fact that informants will be asked during the registration process if they know who is to be making the funeral arrangements, and if so to provide an e-mail address for that funeral director
 - Where the informant is able to give these details, the registrar will e-mail a scanned copy of the Form 14 to the funeral director to allow arrangements to be made
 - The scanned copy of the Form 14 can also be shared electronically by the funeral director with the relevant burial or cremation authority.
- As these arrangements are new, we may experience some initial difficulties in bottoming out unexpected issues. Please contact NRS on the details below and we will advise as soon as possible,.

National Records of Scotland (NRS)

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