

Role of the Coroner

When the death is sudden and unexpected the coroner will be informed.

Coroners are independent judicial officers appointed by the Council to investigate sudden or unexplained deaths.

They may also arrange a post mortem examination to establish a cause of death.

For additional information about this work contact the Department for Constitutional Affairs, Coroners Division on 020 7210 0049.

Useful National Resources

CRUSE Bereavement Care
www.cruse.org.uk
0844 477 9400

London Bereavement Network
www.bereavement.org.uk

The Compassionate Friends
www.tcf.org.uk
0845 123 2304

The Child Death Helpline
www.childdeathhelpline.org.uk
0800 282986

The Stillbirth & Neonatal Death Society
www.uk-sands.org
020 7436 5881

Child Bereavement Trust
www.childbereavement.org.uk
01494 568900

Childhood Bereavement Network
www.childhoodbereavementnetwork.org.uk
020 7843 6309



Child Death Overview Panel

The review when a child dies

Information for parents,
families and carers

The death of a child is always a shock, it is a very sad and difficult time for family and friends.

The Bexley Local Safeguarding Children Board offer sympathies to you and your family at this sad time

Why are we contacting you?

We are sorry to have to contact you at this time but we need to let you know about Government legislation that requires Local Children Safeguarding Boards to review the death of every child and young person in their area.

The object of the child death review process is not to blame anyone, but it is to learn lessons in order to improve the health, safety and well being of children and ultimately prevent further such child deaths.

What is the Review?

The sudden death of a child is particularly distressing and confusing and the first part of the Review is to look at the immediate circumstances surrounding the sudden death of your child.

It is important you are helped to understand what has happened and a small group of professionals will explore the circumstances.

This group will include a specialist doctor, the police and any other professional who may know your child. It is the responsibility of these people to make sure you are offered the right support at this time.

If your child has been ill for sometime and their death had been anticipated the process will be slightly different. Those working with you and your child will ensure that you are kept informed and are offered the support you need.

Later, often several months later, the Child Death Overview Panel, made up of doctors, health specialists and child care professionals, will consider all the reports about your child's death. They will look at the cause of death, and also the support and services offered to you and your child.

If you have something you wish to share with the Review, or have any questions, you can write to the Administrator at:

Bexley Local Safeguarding Children Board
221, Erith Road,
Bexleyheath
Kent
DA7 6HZ

Email: BexleyCDOPadmin@bexley.gcsx.gov.uk

Any recommendations that result from the Review can be shared with you.

What will this mean for you?

It is important that you are receiving the help you and your family need.

Advice on bereavement services is available through your GP, Health Visitor, Children's Social Care, or the children & Young People's Service (chYps) at EllenorLions Hospices (01322 221315), so do not hesitate to contact them.

You can also contact Bexley's Child Death Overview Panel Administrator on 020 3045 4320.

Hospital staff will be able to help you with information on registering the death and the role of the Coroner (in certain circumstances the death may need to be reported to the Coroner).

Your GP or Health Visitor will also be able to offer you support.

Remember this support is available both now and in the future.