

Verification of Deceased: Exemption from Cremation Certificate (Death in Residential Care Facility) 2025

Under Regulation 12(b) of the Cremation Regulations 1973, from 20th December 2024, Hon. Dr Shane Reti, Minister of Health, authorised medical referees to permit cremations to be carried out without complying with Regulation 7(1) for completion of a Cremation Certificate in situations where a person has died in a residential care facility and where the death is not unexpected. In specific conditions, the certifying practitioner does not need to examine the body after death. This exemption only applies

- in rest homes, residential care facilities, and other long-term in-patient facilities, **and**
- where the medical history and current conditions of the deceased are known by the certifying medical or nurse practitioner.

Under this authorization, a medical referee must receive advice from a trusted source, who has a reasonable level of assurance about the identity of the deceased and that the deceased died of natural causes. Ideally this trusted source will be a facility manager or a registered nurse.

Medical referees have discretion in determining who constitutes a trusted source, but must have a record of the identity, contact details, and position of the trusted source.

Date:

Full name of deceased:

Identity of the deceased confirmed by:

- Name
- Role in the facility
- Phone Number
- Email Address

How they know the deceased and how long they have known the deceased:

Declaration by Funeral Director.

Ihave received confirmation and verification of the identity of the above-named deceased provided by I have attached the embalmer's certificate to confirm that there is no biomechanical aid in situ.

Signature:

Position: *[eg funeral director]*

Address:

Note: This exemption does not apply to deaths in hospitals, hospices, private homes, or other settings and where a medical practitioner does not know the medical history of the individual. Certifying practitioners would still be required to view the body of a person who dies outside of a residential care facility.