

**CONDITIONS APPLIED FOR FUNERALS CARRIED OUT UNDER  
SECTION 46 OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH (CONTROL OF DISEASE) ACT 1984.**

When a person dies within the Hart District Council boundary and there is no one prepared or available to take responsibility for the funeral, under Section 46 of the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 the Council will arrange the funeral. Under this act the funeral expenses are the first call on any estate. The Council is empowered under the act to collect any and all sums of money due or belonging to the deceased and to sell any belongings of the deceased in order to help offset the costs. Any short fall would be borne by the Council. All family members will be asked to sign a disclaimer acknowledging and agreeing that the Council will collect any and all such money available or which will become available. Staff acting on behalf of the Council will then take full responsibility and make all arrangements as deemed appropriate and necessary.

**The Council will not become involved if funeral arrangements have already been made. Anyone giving instructions to a firm of Funeral Directors is responsible for any costs incurred.**

Unless it is ascertained that the deceased would have preferred a Cremation, the funeral will be a Burial within Fleet Cemetery. The funeral director is contracted to provide a dignified funeral, with a coffin which will be of a respectable appearance, and which will be taken to the cemetery or crematorium in a hearse attended by bearers. The general manner of the funeral is such that an ordinary observer could not differentiate between this any other funeral service.

The family can send floral tributes and any other 'extras' (such as the costs for viewing the body, entry in the Book of Remembrance, etc.) These costs will be born by the family.

Generally, after the funeral and administration charges have been deducted, and if there were no other bills outstanding, any money left would go to the Treasury Solicitor in accordance with their guidelines for referring estates in 'Bona Vacantia – small receipts' cases.

The Council would not usually undertake funeral arrangements if the next of kin were in receipt of benefits, as the Benefits Agency would pay most, if not all of the funeral bill. The booklet C.49 – What to do after a death in England and Wales – is widely available from hospitals, doctors' surgeries, the D.S.S. etc...