You’ll need to tell the Registrar:
- The person’s full name at time of death.
- Any names previously used, including maiden name.
- The person’s date of birth.
- Their usual address.
- Their occupation at time of death.
- The full name, date of birth and occupation of a surviving spouse or civil partner.
- Their birth information such as mother’s name, place of birth, parish and district of birth or the entry number for their birth.

**When should a death be registered?**

A death should be registered within five days unless the Coroner is investigating the death.

**Where should the death be registered?**

By law, a death must be registered in the district where it occurred.

The death certificate is one of the most important legal documents issued by the government. A death certificate can be obtained only after the death is registered. A death certificate is required:

- As legal proof of the death.
- To settle an estate.
- To claim for benefits such as pensions and insurance.
- To serve as proof of the dissolution of marriage, if you wish to remarry.

**Register your loved one’s death today to ensure a better tomorrow!**

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**Contact Us**

If you have any questions on death registration, please email us at information@rgd.gov.jm or call between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm Mondays-Fridays at 1-876-749-0550 or 1-876-619-1260. Call and use our Interactive Voice Response system to check on your applications. Visit our website: www.rgd.gov.jm

**REGISTRAR GENERAL’S DEPARTMENT**

Head Office
Twickenham Park
St. Catherine, Jamaica
See also 9 other locations islandwide.
The laws of Jamaica demand all deaths to be registered within five days.

The Registration (Births and Deaths) Act of Jamaica demands all deaths to be registered within five days. The Registrar General's Department (RGD) is required to register all deaths.

Natural deaths are those where a medical doctor regularly attended the deceased within three months and is not under reasonable doubt about cause of death.

Sudden deaths are those where the deceased was not under a medical doctor’s care in the last three months and/or whose cause of death is under suspicion of foul play.

Violent deaths are those that occurred under violent circumstances such as stabbing, shooting or suicide.

Deaths must be registered in the district where the death occurred. See the RGD’s website www.rgd.gov.jm for additional information on locations where registration should be conducted.

The book containing the Medical Certificate of the Cause of Death (MCCD) is provided by the RGD to all Medical Practitioners (MPs) needing it. The books are prenumbered and allow the MP to keep the stub after providing the family member with the MCCD. When a book is completed the RGD will collect the stubs.

The manual on guidance for preparing the MCCD is available from the RGD.

Why do I need to register the death?

To allow the recording of the event so that information may be provided for Government planning.

To allow the RGD to classify the causes of death using the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) standard and this assists Jamaica in comparing with other countries.

A death certificate can only be provided to the family after the death is registered.

How do I register the death of a loved one?

If the person dies of natural causes at home, you should:
- Report the death to the police.
- Visit the last doctor who saw the deceased (at least three months before the death.) The physician will complete and sign a MCCD.
- The MCCD should then be taken to one of the RGD’s Registration Centres across Jamaica or the Local District Registrar (LDR) where the death will be registered and the Burial Order After Registration issued.

The Burial Order is prenumbered, pink in colour and has the RGD logo at the top. Part (b) remains with the family member while Part (c) is presented to the Minister of Religion performing the burial. The Minister of Religion will return this copy to the RGD location nearest to him/her.

If the person dies of natural causes in a hospital or other medical facility:
- The attending physician completes and signs a Medical Certificate of the Cause of Death (MCCD).
- The MCCD is then issued to a relative or the person responsible for burial.
- It should be taken to the RGD’s Registration Centre or the LDR, where the death will be registered and the Order for Burial After Registration issued.

When the person dies suddenly or violently, the police must be notified before the death is registered.

The police will order a post mortem/autopsy.
- The police will give you the RGD Order for Burial Before Registration that permits you to proceed with the burial. Please note: the Order for Burial is NOT proof of death registration nor a Death Certificate.
- You must request a Certificate of Coroner (Form D) from the police or Coroner.
- Take the Form D to any of the RGD’s ten (10) offices to register the death.

After you register the death you may apply for the death certificate online on the RGD’s website or by attending any of the RGD’s ten (10) locations.

Who can register a death?

- A relative of the deceased.
- Any relative in attendance during the last illness.
- Any relative residing in the same Registrar’s district of the deceased.
- The occupier of the house where the person died.
- The family member making arrangements for the body to be buried or cremated.
- A person present at the death.

What do I need to register a death?

All deaths require one of the following to be completed and certified by a medical doctor; medical officer or pathologist:
- Medical Certificate of the Cause of Death (MCCD) by a Medical Practitioner
- Post Mortem Examination Report
- Certificate of Coroner (Form D)
- Coroner’s Certificate of Finding of Jury (Form E)