



## BURIAL AND CREMATION FORMS

Notes for Doctors (revised May 2022)

**Please note: these forms pertain only to burial & cremation of human remains, in circumstances where the death was from natural causes.**

### FORM 4 - Cremation

#### DEATH FROM NATURAL CAUSES - CERTIFICATE OF SECOND DOCTOR

When to use	In cases where the deceased died of natural causes and is to be cremated.
To be completed by	The doctor who reviewed both the: a) circumstances of the death; and b) the doctor's certificate of cause of death issued by the treating or examining doctor under section 36 of the <i>Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1996</i> .  The form 4 cannot be completed by the same doctor who completed the doctor's certificate of cause of death.

### FORM 5 - Cremation

#### DEATH FROM NATURAL CAUSES - CERTIFICATE OF DOCTOR CONDUCTING POST MORTEM (NON-CORONIAL)

When to use	In cases where the deceased died of natural causes and is to be cremated, and where a post mortem took place.
To be completed by	The doctor who completed the post mortem examination.

### FORM 6 – Burial Only

#### PARTIAL CERTIFICATE OF CAUSE OF DEATH

When to use	A person must not bury bodily remains until they have sighted a partial certificate of cause of death.
To be completed by	The doctor who was responsible for the deceased's medical care immediately before death or the doctor who examined the body of the deceased after death.  This could be completed at the same time as the doctor's certificate of cause of death.

<b>IDENTIFICATION TAG</b>	
When to use	A funeral director must not move the bodily remains within the place of death or remove the bodily remains from the place of death unless a permanent identification tag has been securely attached to the bodily remains.
To be attached by	The medical practitioner who was responsible for the deceased person's medical care immediately before death; or Another person who personally knew the deceased person; or A person who is otherwise able to confirm the identity of the deceased person
Type of tag	The type of identification tag to be used is defined by the Registrar as "An identification tag of adequate size and material to enable required information to be included in indelible ink and to ensure the identification tag cannot be easily removed from the body".  The tag must be attached to: a) the left arm of the deceased; or b) if attachment to left arm is not practicable - to the right arm; or c) if attachment to the right arm is not practicable - to the left leg; or d) if attachment to the left leg is not practicable - to the right leg; or e) if attachment to the right leg is not practicable - to some other part of the bodily remains of the deceased person.

<b>FORM 7 - Burial and Cremation CERTIFICATE OF IDENTIFICATION OF DECEASED</b>	
When to use	Prior to burial or cremation occurring. It is an offence to bury or cremate the deceased unless a certificate of identification has been sighted
To be completed by	The medical practitioner who was responsible for the deceased person's medical care immediately before death; or a person who personally knew the deceased, and who has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified the body of the deceased; and</li> <li>• Sighted an identification tag with the full name and place of death <b>or</b></li> <li>• Visually sighted the deceased's body in a coffin with a name plate.</li> </ul>

Notes	<p>If the identification tag is attached at the place of death by the medical practitioner who was responsible for the deceased's medical care immediately before death or a person who personally knew the deceased, the bodily remains cannot be moved within, or removed from, the place of death until the medical practitioner or person who personally knew the deceased has completed the Form 7.</p> <p>If the identification tag is attached at the place of death by a person who is otherwise able to confirm the identity of the deceased (for example, a nurse), the bodily remains may be removed from the place of death and the Form 7 completed at a later stage (for example, at the funeral home), but prior to burial or cremation occurring.</p>
-------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<b>FORM 8 - Burial and Cremation (where body cannot be visually identified)</b> <b>CERTIFICATE OF DOCTOR DISPENSING WITH IDENTIFICATION OF DECEASED</b>	
When to use	<p>Cemeteries and crematoriums will not proceed with burial/cremation until the deceased is appropriately identified.</p> <p>In cases where the deceased's body cannot be identified because it is, for example, mutilated, burnt or decomposed, and could not be recognised by visual identification only.</p>
To be completed by	A doctor who has examined the body and who can provide the reason(s) why the body cannot be visually identified.
Notes	<p>Despite its title, in most cases this form refers to dispensing with <u>visual</u> identification, not to dispensing with identification (ie where the body is mutilated, burnt or decomposed). However it can also be used where there is no-one who can identify the deceased, however this is only in exceptional circumstances where all attempts have been exhausted.</p>

**Other notes:**

- Cremation forms completed by doctors should be forwarded to the funeral director or person who will be arranging for the disposal of human remains.
- Section 14 of the *Burial and Cremation Act 2013* states:
  - (1) *A medical practitioner must not give a certificate of cause of death if the death is a reportable death under the Coroners Act 2003.*  
*Maximum penalty: \$10 000 or imprisonment for 2 years.*
  - (2) *A medical practitioner must not give a certificate of cause of death knowing that —*
    - (a) *he or she, or his or her spouse or domestic partner, has a pecuniary or proprietary interest in the hospital, nursing home or aged care facility where the person died; or*
    - (b) *he or she, or his or her spouse or domestic partner, has a pecuniary interest in the death of the person under a policy of life insurance or superannuation; or*
    - (c) *he or she, or his or her spouse or domestic partner, is entitled to a benefit in the form of property under a will or intestate distribution.*  
*Maximum penalty: Imprisonment for 4 years.*
  - (3) *It is a defence to a charge of an offence against subsection (2) if the defendant proves that —*
    - (a) *the death occurred outside Metropolitan Adelaide; and*
    - (b) *no other medical practitioner was reasonable available, within 24 hours after the death, to give the certificate; and*
    - (c) *the defendant complied with any requirements prescribed by the regulations in relation to the certificate.*