

Deceased Verification During COVID-19 Alert Level 4 Form

Under regulation 12(b) of the Cremation Regulations 1973, on 1 April 2020, Hon Dr David Clark authorised medical referees to permit cremations to be carried out without complying with regulation 7 for cremations where completion of a Cremation Certificate by a certifying practitioner would increase the risk of transmission of COVID-19. This authorisation applies

- during COVID-19 Alert Level Four
- in rest homes, residential care facilities, and other long-term in-patient facilities
- where the medical history and current conditions of the deceased are known by the medical or nurse practitioner.

Under this authorisation a medical referee must receive advice from a trusted source, who has a reasonable level of assurance of the cause of death to verify the identity of the deceased and that the deceased died of natural causes, in lieu of a certifying practitioner providing a Cremation Certificate. Medical referees will have discretion in determining who constitutes a trusted source, but that the identity, contact details, and position of the trusted source must be recorded.

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