



ATTLEBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall, Queens Square, Attleborough, Norfolk NR17 2AF
Tel: 01953 456194 - email: enquiries@attleboroughtc.org.uk
www.attleboroughtc.org.uk

Information regarding Funerals during this time

Funeral ceremonies and services - There are currently several restrictions that have been put in place due to government guidelines in order to keep people safe. These are constantly changing, but correct at time of issue.

Arranging a funeral - Although incredibly difficult and most uncharacteristic, most Funeral Directors are encouraging people to make contact via phone or other digital means and only visit the funeral home in person if absolutely essential. This is in order to protect staff and also their visitors too.

Meetings to arrange funerals are being offered by Skype or other media platforms to enable conference type calls with many family members able to take part in the arrangements.

If someone has to enter a funeral home, it would be likely that there would be a recommendation that just 2 people attend and of course only if they were not displaying any symptoms, as it is paramount at this time that all involved keep safe, for their own sake and the sake of others.

Visits to a Chapel of rest to see their loved ones, are also likely to be restricted and in some cases not permitted, in order to limit the amount of people accessing the premises.

Many Funeral homes are currently not supplying limousines for the safety of staff and mourners.

Charitable donations are recommended via online options to decrease the handling of cash.

There is always the option of having a **memorial service** at a later date in order to celebrate your loved one if you are not able to have the service you wish for at this time.

Churches are continuing to encourage graveside services only, although this may be reviewed in the near future with the possibility of places of worship opening again.

Most **Crematoria** around the country have increased the number of mourners that are able to attend to nearer 20. This includes main mourners and is ideally made up of those who are not in the high-risk category and those who are not self-isolating. If you have any doubts on numbers, your funeral director would be able to keep you informed.

Mourners who are not living in the same household should adhere to the social distancing rule and remain 2 metres apart. Where possible, this is being supported by seating being removed to ensure compliance.

This is of course very difficult at such an emotional time but necessary for everyone's safety.

Most crematoria have an option for **webcasting/live streaming** the funeral service, enabling other mourners to be *virtually* present and are mostly able to record audio and video too, so the service can be viewed later, but with the high demand of usage and internet connection being compromised due to excess users, this has been known to be unreliable in some cases.

Grief and Bereavement - For those experiencing grief and bereavement at this time of heightened isolation, there is an online service called **GreifChat**.

<https://www.griefchat.co.uk/>

Grief Chat counsellors are experienced in supporting bereaved people and will listen to your story, explore how your grief is affecting you and help you to find any additional support you might need. GriefChat provides emotional support for bereaved people, access to trained bereavement counsellors and referral into other specialist bereavement services. GriefChat is a completely free service and is available Monday-Friday, 9 am-9 pm or by email out of these hours.

Marie Curie also have a free Bereavement Support Helpline 0800 090 2309 Lines are open 8am-6pm Monday to Friday and 11am -5pm on Saturday & Sunday and is available for adults over the age of 18 years old.

Nelson's Journey is a local charity supporting grieving children based just outside Norwich 01603 431788

For younger persons, there is a great deal of support on the **Child Bereavement UK** website www.childbereavementuk.org They have apps, and forums for young people and a helpline 0800 02 888 40 or a live chat facility available via their website.

Winston's Wish is another organization that offers support for grieving children www.winstonswish.org They also have online chat and a helpline service 08088 020 021

Locally Bereavement Support is available via Rosedale Funeral Home please call 01953 452538 for more information on when groups may resume.