

## **FORM A5: application for cremation of an adult or a child (by a local authority) - guidance notes**

### **1. Note 1**

- i. The applicant completes the form in their capacity as the representative of the local authority.

### **2. Note 2**

#### **Procurator Fiscal**

- i. All deaths which are sudden, suspicious, unexplained or unexpected are reported to the Procurator Fiscal who may instruct the police to investigate the circumstances of the death. Within the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS), the Scottish Fatalities Investigation Unit (SFIU) is a specialist unit responsible for investigating these deaths. The SFIU will decide whether further investigation is required. Information is available on the COPFS website:  
<http://www.copfs.gov.uk/>

- ii. Form E1 is issued by the SFIU when the cremation has been approved and may be sent directly to the crematorium. It must be received by the crematorium before the cremation is due to take place.

### **3. Note 3**

#### **Hazards**

- i. Examples include: pacemaker; cardiac implant; drug pump; neuro-stimulator; shunt; battery powered implant; Fixion nails used in treatment of bone fractures. Please discuss with the funeral director or cremation authority if you are unsure.
- ii. Notifiable diseases are listed in Schedule 1 of the Public Health etc. (Scotland) Act 2008. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2008/5/schedule/1>.
- iii. Some injections for cancer treatment contain radioactive material which may mean that the cremation has to be delayed for a period.

### **4. Note 4**

#### **Declaration**

- i. The applicant is required to declare that they are the representative of the local authority and entitled to apply for the cremation in terms of the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016.
- ii. The funeral director is required to complete the second part of section 4 (if involved).

## **5. Note 5**

### **Ashes**

- i. The applicant should indicate whether there are any family members who wish the ashes to be returned to them.
- ii. The cremation authority will record what is done with the ashes in the cremation register.

### **Sensitive disposal of metals**

- iii. Crematoriums may arrange for metal which survives the cremation process to be recovered and sensitively recycled. Metals are made up of items used in the construction of the coffin (e.g. pins and staples) and some surgical implants (e.g. hip joints, pins and plates). Any proceeds received following recycling are distributed to charity. The crematorium will need your permission to recycle and should clearly state their policy in terms of any metal recovered following cremation. If you wish, you have the right to request that these metals are returned to you. The cremation process will render the majority of jewellery unrecognisable and ideally should be removed before cremation.

## **6. Note 6**

- i. The cremation authority is required to verify that the information contained in this form is correct and that the cremation can proceed.
- ii. The signatory should sign the form if they approve the cremation.