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Bereavement - How the Past Members Association Can Help

Introduction

The death of a close family member can be extremely traumatic and difficult for those left behind to deal with, certainly in the initial stages. You will inevitably feel a number of emotions and it is quite possible you may feel confused or at a loss as to what to do next. Assistance and guidance on how to take the first steps to deal with your new situation will often be provided by other family members but occasionally, and for a variety of reasons, this support may not be available to you. Where circumstances are appropriate, the Past Members Association (PMA) are able to provide assistance where the widow/widower feels that we can help.

Help is at hand

The Past Members Association (PMA) are ready to assist you in a variety of ways, but you do need to ensure we are informed as soon as you feel able. A phone call is all that is required either from yourself or a close friend or family member. A list of PMA contact phone numbers is attached.

Contact with the PMA

As soon as you have made contact with the PMA, and assuming you feel we can assist you, we will arrange for someone to meet you at the earliest convenient opportunity. We will try, wherever possible, to arrange for someone who knew the deceased personally to visit you and explain how we can help and assist you. It's a good idea to have a family member or close friend with you at this meeting. An early meeting is important given the necessity of making timely funeral arrangements.

Funeral arrangements

Matters we can assist with include:

- Notifying other PMA Members of the death.
- Notifying other PMA Members of the funeral arrangements.
- Loan of the PMA coffin shroud.
- Notifying former colleagues as to your choice of flowers or donations to charity.
- Widows/widowers pension arrangements (assuming the deceased was receiving a HFRS pension).
- Advice and assistance from PMA Chaplain regarding funeral arrangements.

Please note that we will not take over or seek to influence or control you – your wishes remain absolute at all times during this difficult time.

Ongoing support

The PMA can continue to offer support after the funeral and in particular in liaising with any Fire Service related organisation. These might include:

- HFRS Pensions Advisor based at Hampshire County Council, Winchester
- Firefighters Charity
- Berta and Hector Young Trust (Contact via Phil Webb)
- Past Members Association, including invites to events

We will endeavour to maintain contact with you through your initial PMA contact person although practically this may not always be possible.

Useful contacts

Other organisations that you might find useful at this time include:

Past Members Chaplain

Reverend Terry Lane

Tel: 02380 361193

Email: terry.lane@xhfrs.org.uk

Hampshire Pensions Department

Pensions Services, County Treasurers Department, Hampshire County Council, The Castle, Winchester, SO23 8UB

Email: pensions@hants.gov.uk

Firefighters Charity

Charity helpline: 0800 389 8820

Therapy or recuperation: 0870 240 6543

Web: www.firefighterscharity.org.uk

Berta and Hector Young Trust

Phil Webb (Secretary)

Tel: 023 8062 6779 or 07918 887525

Job Centre Plus

Tel: 000 055 6688

Web: http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Employment/Jobseekers/ContactJobcentrePlus/DG_186347

Debt Advice Providers

National debt line: www.nationaldebtline.co.uk

Citizens advice bureau: www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Free not for profit advice: www.debtadvicetrust.org

Government advisory service: www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/ManagingDebt/index.htm

Charity offering free confidential debt advice: www.cccs.co.uk



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