After You Have Made Funeral Arrangements

1. Obtain 3 extra copies of the death certificate. These are usually available from the funeral director or your town/city hall.

2. Contact life insurance companies.

3. Contact your local Social Security office if you are eligible for benefits.

4. If you do not have an attorney, contact your bank concerning any existing accounts.

5. Notify creditors and credit card companies.

You and your family will continue to be in our thoughts and our staff is available to assist you during this difficult time.

Some suggestions to help you through the next few days.
Loss of a Loved One

The death of a family member is so very difficult. We hope the following information will help you through the first few hours and days.

Organ, Tissue, & Eye Donation
If you were not offered the option of organ, tissue, or eye donation at the hospital, and your loved one is eligible to donate, you may receive a phone call. A representative from Lifesharing or the San Diego Eye Bank will contact you to discuss the wishes of your loved one. The representative will be able to provide you with all of the information you need to help make the decision that is right for your family.

Funeral Arrangements
Arrangements for your loved one’s funeral and/or religious service can be made after you leave the hospital and have had time to discuss your plans with family members and friends. After you make the initial call, the funeral home will contact you to arrange a meeting time to help you with the details.

When You Return Home:
- Contact other family members and close friends
- Contact your clergy person (if you have one) who can assist you with funeral arrangements
- Discuss your choice of funeral arrangements
- Have a relative, friend, or neighbor answer the phone or help make phone calls
- Ask someone to keep a list of all phone calls, flowers, and food donations
- Determine if you would like donations made to an organization or charity in memory of your loved one
- Contact an attorney (if you have one) who will be able to assist with any legal matters
- Notify the employers of your loved one and other household members
- Notify your children’s school

Going to the Funeral Home
You may wish to have the following information about your loved one:
- Full name, “nickname,” or other names the person might have used
- Date and place of birth
- Social Security number
- Father’s name and mother’s maiden name
- If a veteran, proof of military service
- List of relatives and relationships
- List of memberships in clubs and organizations, church, schools attended, and awards received

- The name and address of an organization or charity to which memorial donations may be made
- A list of individuals who might be pallbearers and/or able to speak about your loved one at the service
- The clothing your loved one will be buried in
- The arrangements for food or a reception after the burial service
- Information that your loved one was an organ or tissue donor if applicable