

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What to do if there is no Medical Referee in your Area?

#### What is a medical referee?

A medical referee is a registered medical practitioner who has been appointed by the NSW Ministry of Health to provide independent medical advice as to whether there is a need to further examine the remains of a deceased person prior to cremation.

Under Schedule 7 of the *Public Health Regulation 2022* a medical referee also includes public health officers (appointed under the *Public Health Act*), and medical superintendents (or equivalent) of public hospitals.

#### What happens if there is no medical referee in your area?

In the event there is no available medical referee, or all medical referees in your area are on leave, you should attempt to contact a medical referee in your nearest suburb/town.

If you are unsure of who is appointed for your surrounding areas, you should review the [NSW Medical Referee Register](#), located on the SESLHD Public Health Unit Medical Referees Website, by selecting 'How can I search for Medical Referee?'.

Should you be unable to locate a suitable medical referee, you may then contact the medical superintendent of a public hospital who has the authority to sign the NSW Health Medical Referee's Cremation Permit. The request to have a medical superintendent approve the [cremation risk advice](#) is only to be used in emergency situations.

Should you still be unable to locate a suitable medical referee or a medical superintendent to sign the cremation risk advice, please contact the local public health unit on 1300 066 055 to seek further advice/clarification.

#### Helpful Links

- [NSW Health Guidelines: Disposal of the Deceased](#)
- [Public Health Regulation 2022](#)
- [Application to Appoint NSW Health Medical Referee](#)
- [SESLHD Public Health Unit Medical Referees Website](#)
- [Cremation Risk Advice](#)

#### For more information

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