Pushing up the Daisies

AFTER THE LAST BREATH QUIZ

1. If someone dies in a hospice or hospital, the most senior doctor has the legal authority to decide what happens with their body.	**TRUE** **FALSE**
2. You are allowed by law to move a dead person in your own vehicle.	**TRUE** **FALSE**
3. You must tell the Police before moving a dead person in your own vehicle.	**TRUE** **FALSE**
4. Someone who has died can be buried in a garden.	**TRUE** **FALSE**
5. A death must be registered within eight days.	**TRUE** **FALSE**
6. A person's body can only be kept at home for up to seven days after they die.	**TRUE** **FALSE**
7. A husband, wife or partner does not have to arrange a funeral by law.	**TRUE** **FALSE**
8. The law says your wishes for your funeral must be followed.	**TRUE** **FALSE**
9. By law, you can choose who arranges your funeral.	**TRUE** **FALSE**
10. You can arrange a burial or cremation without using a funeral director.	**TRUE** **FALSE**
11. A coffin must be used for a burial to be legal.	**TRUE** **FALSE**
12. You need the landowner's permission to scatter ashes on land.	**TRUE** **FALSE**
13. In 2025 the average cost of a traditional funeral in UK was £3,910. This included the funeral director, a coffin, and burial or cremation (with no extras e.g. wake or flowers).	**TRUE** **FALSE**
14. Someone on income support will get a Funeral Support Payment to pay for the full cost of a funeral for a close family member.	**TRUE** **FALSE**

AFTER THE LAST BREATH QUIZ – ANSWERS

1. **False.** No one legally owns a dead body. A doctor decides if the death needs to be checked by the Procurator Fiscal. If it does, the Procurator Fiscal decides what happens to the person's body. If it does not, then the next-of-kin or chosen person has the right to decide how a person's body is cared for and can, for example, take them straight home from a hospital or hospice.

2. **True.** A dead person can be moved in any vehicle, as long as their body is covered so as not to cause public offence.

3. **False.** You do not have to tell the police before moving a dead person in any vehicle.

4**. True.** With the landowner's permission, and confirmation from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency that it will not contaminate groundwater or water supplies, someone can be buried in their own garden or on any private land. The burial does not need to be recorded on the property's title deeds, but a note should be kept with the title deeds showing the position of the grave. You may have to check with your local council to find out if planning permission is required, especially if there will be several graves or a memorial stone.

5. **True.** A death must be registered with a registrar anywhere in Scotland within eight days.

6. **False.** There is no legal time limit for how long a person's body can be kept at home.

7**. False** No one has to arrange a funeral by law, but if someone does, they must pay for it. The funeral can sometimes be paid for directly from the deceased's bank account but, if not, it will always be taken from their estate before any other debts. If no one arranges a funeral, the local authority is responsible for arranging one and they will claim the payment back from the dead person's estate if the money is available.

8. **False.** You can write down your funeral wishes, but the law does not say they must be followed. People often write them in a Will but his part of a will is not legally binding.

9. **True.** The Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016 s65 gives a legal hierarchy of who can arrange a funeral and who can be nominated to arrange a funeral. In this hierarchy, a person's spouse/partner comes above their children. Note that this person is not legally obliged to do it, so it is important to choose someone you trust.

10.**True.** A funeral director can be very helpful, but they are not legally necessary. However, some private cremation companies and burial grounds only accept cremations/funerals through a funeral director. Local authority crematoria and burial grounds do not require this and can help people wanting to make arrangements themselves.

11. **False.** The law does not say a coffin must be used. However, a burial authority can require a coffin to be used on their premises. It is not usually required at a natural burial ground where shrouds, sheets or blankets can be used.

12. **True**. You must haec the landowner's permission to scatter ashes on land.

13. **False.** In 2025, the average cost of a traditional funeral in the UK was £4,510. This includes fees for a cremation or burial, funeral director, limousine and attendants and mid-range coffin. [sunlife.co.uk/funeral-costs]

14. **False.** People on certain benefits can get a Funeral Support Payment, but there are rules about who can get it. For example, it may not be given if a close family member can afford to pay. It can help with costs, but it usually does not pay for the whole funeral. The payment includes fixed amounts for burial or cremation, funeral director costs, and transport cost. In 2025 77% of applications were authorised with an average payout of £2,170. [socialsecurity.gov.scot 09.04.26]

Prepared by Pushing Up the Daisies, a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC046808