

# BASIC INFORMATION FOR SURVIVORS

## “What Do I Do Now?”

- Please feel free to contact the Victim’s Assistance Unit at the Port St. Lucie Police Department to assist you with any questions you may have.
  - Terry Owen (772) 344-4331
  - Esther DeLancer (772) 871-7673
  - Lauri Taylor (772) 344-4091
  
- Your loved one will be transported to the medical examiner’s office where an autopsy will be performed within the next two business days. Eventually you may obtain a copy of the Autopsy Report from the Medical Examiner’s Office. You may request a copy by calling 772-464-7378.
  
- You will need to select a funeral home for your loved one’s care. Please see attached list of current funeral homes in the area, but feel free to choose the funeral home you are comfortable with.
  
- If you are experiencing serious financial hardship there is a resource you may request from St. Lucie Community Services at 772-462-1777.
  
- There are 2 types of Death Certificates. One shows cause of death, which is called the long form. The other is the short form, which does not show cause of death. Your funeral home will make necessary suggestions as to how many copies you might need of each. If you need to request additional Death Certificates in the future, you can contact the Department of Health - Office of Vital Statistics at 772-873-4932. The funeral home will also assist with obituary and options for a memorial service.
  
- You may be permitted to obtain medical records from the hospital where your loved one was taken, if applicable. Please call for instructions and what you may need to provide.

Lawnwood Regional Medical Center                      772-461-4000

St. Lucie Medical Center                                      772-335-4000

Tradition Medical Center                                    772-345-8100

Martin Memorial

772-287-5200

Indian River Memorial Hospital

772-567-4311

- If your loved one was a veteran, please contact the Department of Veteran Affairs Office at 1-800-827-1000 or the Local Office 772-337-5670.
- You may be entitled to Social Security benefits, please call the Social Security Office at 1-800-772-1213 for more information.
- If your loved one was employed, please contact the employer. Inquire as to whether or not the deceased had any Life Insurance Policies. If applicable, contact any insurance or banking institutions that the deceased may have had. You will need a copy of the Death Certificate.
- If your loved one was murdered, killed by a drunk, reckless or a hit and run driver, benefits may be available through the Attorney General's Office Bureau of Victim Compensation. Please contact the Victim Advocate to learn more information.
- If there is a criminal case pending, the State Attorney's Office will be in contact. A State Attorney Victim Advocate will be assigned to the criminal case. The Victim Advocate will notify you of future court proceedings. The State Attorney's number is 772-465-3000.
- If you feel you may need grief counseling, please contact Treasure Health/Hospice. This is a free service to all.

[www.Treasurehealth.org](http://www.Treasurehealth.org)

772-403-4530 or [griefinfo@treasurehealth.org](mailto:griefinfo@treasurehealth.org)