

HOLD OUT A HAND

'Hold out a Hand' is a Newport-based charity set up to provide support and finance to organisations and charities involved with bereavement. All profits made by the charity go to further its aims - to provide bereavement support

'Hold out a Hand' has two areas of business:

- Providing offices and support to organisations throughout Wales providing bereavement support
- Running commercial businesses such as charity shops and cafes - community-based social enterprises that will meet local needs, be part of the community, and concentrate in particular on assisting the bereaved to donate items belonging to the deceased - often a difficult stage in loss

The charity plays an active role in the community through support of schools and activities for the young - bereavement affects everyone in the community at some stage in their lives and by bringing the subject of loss into the open, together with early involvement with the young in this sensitive area, we hope for major long-term benefits

Hold out a Hand - and help the bereaved

2 Livingstone Place T: 01633 250119
Maindee E: Holdoutahand@hotmail.co.uk
Newport W: Holdoutahand.co.uk
NP19 8EY

Registered Charity No 1118375
A Company Limited by Guarantee
No. 6013665
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Various Courts and Contacts



**Hold out a Hand
And Help The Bereaved**

Winston's Wish
Bereaved children
0845 2030405
www.winstonswish.org.uk

The Compassionate Friends
53 North Street
Bristol
BS3 1EN
0845 120232304
www.tcf.org.uk

The Beresford Centre (Still birth termination)
Gaer Park Drive
Newport
NP20 3NN
01633 212320

Domestic Abuse
01633 840258

Befrienders (over 60)
01633 763320

Probation
01633 213221

Young Widows
02920 711209

Court Liason
01633 261162

DWP
0845 6001043 or 01253 331097

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The Law and Bereavement

The Role of Bereavement Councillors

1. Counsellors must operate within their terms of reference.
2. It is important to help clients to help themselves and to assist them to other specialist advice eg legal, financial and welfare.
3. In straightforward cases, without the issues of Inquests, civil or criminal aspects, advice on Administration of Estates can be obtained from the CAB or Probate Registry, who will arrange appointments with the family to help to fill in forms.
4. In some cases the issues are complicated eg road accidents, industrial accidents, medical errors, death in prison or Police custody (including pursuits or arrests on the street).
5. These cases take time and cause stress to survivors and family, with other processes running together, eg investigations by the Police in criminal cases including road accidents, Health and Safety Executive for industrial workplaces etc.
6. These matters all take some considerable time to deal with and any Inquest will be opened for identification and burial purposes, but adjourned pending the outcome of criminal proceedings. In minor cases the Inquest can be concluded prior to prosecution, but where serious offences occur, eg murder and manslaughter, or causing death by dangerous driving, the Inquest will be held after the trial.
7. Civil actions will normally be tried after the criminal and Inquest processes have been concluded, as these will assist the claimants in obtaining evidence of liability.
8. HM Coroner is the legal authority for the Inquest - in Gwent it is Mr David Bowen. His Officers are Mr Ken Le Provost and Mr Howard Salmon, both retired Police Officers, with a

wealth of experience and able to provide advice and guidance on the process.

9. The Criminal Courts in Gwent are the Magistrates Court for lesser offences and the Crown Court for serious matters. Cases are always started in the Magistrates Court and then, if serious, transferred to the Crown Court. They are sent to any Crown Court in the area, including Newport, Cardiff, Merthyr, Swansea etc.
10. The Civil Courts are County Courts and the High Court. Like the Criminal Courts, the County Courts are for the lesser claims and the High Court for more serious matters.
11. There are other legal processes which may impact on deaths, including:-
 - a. Independent Police Complaints Commission, which investigates Police malpractice and can pursue discipline or criminal charges for Police Officers, eg unlawful assaults or car chases leading to the death of the victim.
 - b. The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority which makes payments to victims of crime.
 - c. Public Inquiries. These are set up by Government where deaths are due to major public issues, eg The Severn Tunnel Rail Crash. These cases can take many years to finalise.
12. Limitation on proceedings – There are limitations on commencing proceedings and these are as follows:-
 - a. Criminal proceedings – 6 months for summary for minor offences and no limit for indictable or serious offences.
 - b. Civil Proceedings – 3 years for personal injury or death but 6 years where this has been caused by breach of statutory duty eg assault by Police These are general limits and there are exceptions eg persons with mental

disability or persons under 18 years where the time limits of 3/6 years do not start until their 18th birthday or the cessation of the mental disability.

In dealing with complex cases it is important that Counsellors keep within their expertise and terms of reference, taking advice on any issues of concern.

This note is provided as a general guide on the related legal processes which Counsellors may come across. Cruse in Gwent have access to other resources if specific issues arise or advice is needed.

Useful Contacts

Cruse in Gwent Bereavement Care	01633 250118
Widows group (over 50s)	02476 63 4848
Widows group (under 50s)	02920 711289
Siblings support group	www.adultsiblinggrief.com
Families of murdered children	www.formuk.org
Bereavement - rights & responsibilities	www.direct.gov.uk
The Child bereavement Trust	http://cbt.bpweb.net
Death of a child	www.TCF.org.uk
Pet bereavement support	0800 096 6606

Unwanted Contacts(you will need your postcode)

Unwanted junkmail (mailing services preference service);

www.mpsonline.org.uk

Unwanted telephone sales calls:

www.tpsonline.org.uk

Unwanted sales faxes:

www.fpsonline.org.uk