



## WHY WAS HAMBURG POLICE CALLED IN THIS CASE OF DEATH?

When a person dies, a doctor must officially determine the death.

If the responsible doctor cannot determine the cause of death with certainty, is unavailable, or if there are indications of an unexplained or non-natural death or any other need for further review, the police are required to initiate an investigation.

This is a common procedure and serves to clarify the circumstances of the death.

## WHERE IS THE DECEASED TAKEN, AND WHAT HAPPENS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS?

For the duration of the investigation, the body remains in official custody and is transferred by the police to the

### INSTITUTE OF FORENSIC MEDICINE

Butenfeld 34  
22529 Hamburg  
Tel.: +49 (0)40/7410 – 52127

During the investigation, relatives are generally not able to see the deceased. However, a farewell viewing is possible at a later point through the funeral home you appoint.

If the circumstances of death cannot be conclusively clarified through the investigation, the Hamburg Public Prosecutor's Office may arrange for a further examination (autopsy) through the competent court.

Relatives may also commission such an examination after consultation with the Institute of Forensic Medicine. As a rule, this procedure does not significantly delay the burial.

## WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO NEXT?

**Please contact a funeral home of your choice immediately. Do not wait until someone contacts you.**

The funeral home will inform you about the next steps and assist you with all organizational matters (for example, obtaining documents and dealing with authorities).

Under the Hamburg Burial Act, close relatives are obligated to arrange the burial. This includes spouses, registered partners, children, parents, siblings, and grandchildren.

If the relatives do not fulfill this obligation or cannot be identified, the authorities will arrange the

burial. The costs incurred are generally charged to the relatives who are legally responsible for arranging the burial.

If items have been seized in connection with the death, or if cash or keys are being held, or if an apartment has been sealed, please contact the

### NACHLASSBÜRO

#### (ESTATE OFFICE OF HAMBURG POLICE)

E-Mail:

LKA-NLB@Polizei.Hamburg.de

Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Tel.: +49 40 / 4286 – 74177

**We strongly recommend contacting them by email.**

### FURTHER INFORMATION



Scan the QR code to go directly to the information page *Hilfe im Sterbefall* on the Hamburg Police website.

[www.polizei.hamburg](http://www.polizei.hamburg) → service → *Hilfe im Sterbefall*

You can reach the public authorities' service number at 115 or find general information at

[WWW.HAMBURG.DE](http://WWW.HAMBURG.DE)