



King's College Hospital Charity

Bereavement Service

StChristopher's
More than just a hospice



The King's College Hospital Charity Bereavement Service offers free telephone and face-to face support for the relatives, partners and friends of any patient who died at King's College Hospital, Princess Royal University Hospital, or Orpington Hospital during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The service is delivered in partnership with St Christopher's.

This support is part of a programme created by King's College Hospital Charity to help patients, their family members and staff of King's College Hospital Foundation Trust to cope with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This aspect of the bereavement service is funded by the Charity from voluntary donations received from supporters and is delivered by St Christopher's.

Grief is normal

The death of someone close can sometimes seem like the most painful thing that has ever happened to you. It can feel bewildering and perhaps frightening. Grief is a natural reaction to loss. There is no right or wrong way to grieve.

Most people will experience similar feelings – initial shock and disbelief, perhaps numbness, anger, periods of utter confusion, intense pain and questioning. Perhaps you feel sad that they are no longer with you, bad that you could not do enough, guilt about the relief that they no longer have to suffer illness or anxious about how your life will be changed.

Grieving is not usually a smooth process; it takes time to adjust gradually to life without the person who has died.

The extraordinary circumstances of your loved one dying during the pandemic may be exacerbating your emotions. This service is designed to address this.

How can bereavement support help?

Every death is a very personal experience and no two people experience the death of a loved one in the same way. Many people find that it helps to talk with someone who is not part of their family or close circle of friends.

Sometimes people find that at first they do not want support but later change their mind. If this happens to you, please call us.

Who is eligible?

The service is free to the relatives, partners and friends of any patient who died at King's College Hospital, Princess Royal University Hospital, or Orpington Hospital during the time of COVID-19, from March 2020. Whether the patient received a COVID diagnosis or died of other causes, you will still be eligible. The service is also available to members of staff who have experienced the death of a family member or close friend, regardless of location.

What support is offered?

The right package of support is tailored to each individual's needs. This could be information or advice, it could be therapeutic counselling, or you could be invited to join a group or a social programme. You will be helped to determine what may help you most.

The emphasis is very much on finding what works for you.

Where is the service offered?

While social distancing measures are in place, support will be offered using the phone or other virtual tools. When measures are lifted, support will be offered in convenient locations in Bromley, Lambeth and Southwark.

King's College Hospital Charity
Bereavement Service is free and
available to adults and children. More
than one family member can benefit.

**Please ring our confidential
helpline on 020 8768 4599 or email
stc.kchcbereavement@nhs.net**

supportkings.org.uk

For **staff** using the Bereavement Service, please contact the helpline
and state you are a staff member at the King's College Hospital
NHS Foundation Trust.

For questions regarding death certificates or funeral arrangements,
please contact one of our bereavement offices:

King's College Hospital
0203 299 3426

Princess Royal University Hospital
01689 986 3188