

When someone dies in a motor vehicle accident.
Information for families.

SHEET 3

Role of the NSW Police

This information sheet series has been produced by the Motor Accidents Authority of NSW (MAA) to help families and friends of people who have died as the result of a motor vehicle accident.



Role of the Police

The Police will have to investigate the circumstances of the death. The length of the investigation will vary depending on the circumstances.

The Police will usually require someone to formally identify the person who has died. This can be a very difficult and emotional time. It helps to have a support person with you to help you at the time and to be there for you afterwards.

The Police may have to come back and see you several times to ask questions. This is all a necessary part of the investigation.

Police can also help you to contact support services.

NSW Police Crash Investigation Unit

The Crash Investigation Unit (CIU) of the NSW Police may be responsible for the investigation.

Their role is to work out the cause of the motor vehicle accident.

They will keep your family informed of the investigation's progress and outcome.

If the matter proceeds to the criminal or coronial courts, the investigating officer will keep your family advised of the court's progress.

Property

Property taken from a person who has died is recorded by the Police. Your family will be contacted by the Police and asked to collect these items.

If an item has been taken as an exhibit, it cannot be released until after the investigation or court proceedings have been finalised.

If you have any questions

If you have any questions relating to the investigation, it is best to contact the police officer conducting the investigation.

Other information sheets in this series include:

- **The information sheet series**
- **CTP Greenslip and how to claim**
- **Coroner and Forensic system**
- **Making funeral arrangements**

This information sheet series is available by:

- downloading from the MAA website www.maa.nsw.gov.au
- requesting a copy by emailing to cas@maa.nsw.gov.au
- or phone the MAA on **1300 137 131**

The Motor Accidents Authority of NSW (MAA) has produced information sheets about a number of matters you may have to deal with when someone close to you has died as a result of a motor vehicle accident.

Families in similar situations have said having some practical information would have helped them cope with unfamiliar procedures and making decisions at this very difficult time.

You may need more information than these sheets can provide. A number of other sources provide support and information. You may already be in contact with a social worker, other health professional or support group. They can provide individual support and guidance if required.

We are all individuals and respond in our own unique way to the death of a loved one.

There are no right or wrong feelings, no timetable for grief and no right or wrong way to cope.

It is important to take care of yourself, and allow others to support you.

Remember, if you want support, it is available from a number of community services.



**MOTOR ACCIDENTS
AUTHORITY**

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