

Procedure to appoint medical referees



Under the Public Health Regulation 2022 (Regulation), there are several procedures in relation to cremation that can only be completed by a medical referee.

Schedule 7 of the regulation defines a medical referee as:

- (a) a public health officer who is a registered medical practitioner, or
- (b) a medical superintendent of a public hospital, within the meaning of the *Health Services Act 1997*, or
- (c) a registered medical practitioner who has been appointed by the Secretary as a medical referee for this Regulation.

The Secretary's authority under Schedule 7(c) of the Public Health Regulation 2022 appoint a registered medical practitioner as a medical referee for the purposes of Part 8 of the Regulation has been delegated to the Director, South Eastern Sydney Public Health Unit.

Appointments as NSW Medical Referees are conducted within two weeks of application being received.

Application procedure

1. An application for appointment as a medical referee should be made on the "APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT AS A MEDICAL REFEREE - Public Health Regulation 2022" form.
2. The application should be addressed to the Director, South Eastern Sydney Public Health Unit, Locked Bag 88, Randwick NSW 2031 or faxed to 02 9382 8314 or emailed to SESLHD-PublicHealthUnit-AdminTeam@health.nsw.gov.au.
3. Applicants are required to be legally qualified and hold General Registration as a medical practitioner with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.
4. Applicants whose registration includes conditions, a reprimand or an undertaking may not be considered.
5. Applicants who have been suspended will not be considered.
6. Applicants must satisfy the requirement that they have practised medicine as a fully qualified medical practitioner for at least three of the last five years.
7. The applicant will be advised of the appointment in writing via email and post.
8. NSW Health maintains a register of medical referees and updates the register quarterly. The list of medical referees is available at www.seslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/services-clinics/directory/public-health/medical-referees
9. NSW Health each quarter distributes an up to date register of medical referees in NSW to:
 - Members of Cemeteries and Crematoria Association of NSW
 - Executive Secretary, Australian Funeral Directors Association NSW
 - Funeral Industry Association
 - Funeral and Allied Industries Union NSW
10. NSW Health liaises with the Medical Council of NSW and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency to ensure details supplied in the application are correct and that the applicant complies with the requirements for appointment.
11. Appointed medical referees should immediately notify NSW Health of any change of address, retirement, change in registration status or other details. Failure to notify NSW Health may result in withdrawal of appointment.
12. Where an appointed medical referee is reported by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency to have new conditions or undertakings placed on his/her registration, the appointment may be withdrawn if the condition or undertaking is considered likely to interfere with the practitioner's ability to perform the duties of a medical referee.

For further information please contact the SES Public Health Unit on (02) 9382 8333 option 5.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY – ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED

Full Name: _____ Date of birth: _____
(If different to name used for Registration, please state both)

Name of Practice: _____

Address of Practice: _____

Suburb: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Mobile: _____

Personal Email: (so we can contact you directly) _____

Medical qualifications: _____

You must hold medical registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and have been practising for three of the last five years. If not, you are not eligible to apply to become a Medical Referee.

Please provide your: Registration Number: MED _____ Status: _____

Conditions or Undertakings: Yes No Registration Valid to (date): _____

Please provide details of employment history in medicine for the last five years:

Employer	Position details	Period (From - to)

Reason for applying:

a) I have been requested to provide Medical Referee's Cremation Permits by:

Funeral Director: Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Number: _____

Other: Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Number: _____

b) Other reason: _____

- I agree to perform as a medical referee in accordance with the requirements of Sections 106 and 107 of the *Public Health Regulation 2022*.
- **I understand that it is my responsibility to notify NSW Health of any changes to my contact details, to my Medical Registration status including conditions and undertakings), or if I retire.**
- **In order to ensure the currency of information we hold for NSW Medical Referees, a condition of your appointment is that you are required to keep us updated with your current contact details. The reasons for having this information are to allow us to communicate with you regarding your role as a Medical Referee, and to enable us to publish a list of Medical Referees with practice locations (suburb/town, state and postcode). If we are unable to contact you, with your consent, we will obtain your contact details (principal place of practice, email addresses and telephone numbers) from the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). If we are unable to contact you, then your name will be removed from the list of Medical Referees.**
- **I consent to the Public Health Unit obtaining my contact details from AHPRA.**

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Completed forms should be sent to: **South Eastern Sydney Public Health Unit, Locked Mail Bag 88, Randwick, NSW, 2031** or faxed to **(02) 9382 8314** or emailed to SESLHD-PublicHealthUnit-AdminTeam@health.nsw.gov.au