



Ministry of  
**JUSTICE**

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**BY EMAIL**

[www.justice.gov.uk](http://www.justice.gov.uk)

All crematoria, cremation authorities and medical referees  
cc: APCC, FBCA, ICCM

28 February 2012

Dear colleagues,

**PUBLICATION OF AMENDED GUIDANCE FOR CREMATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2008**

I am pleased to inform you that we have recently published updated guidance notes for the Cremation (England and Wales) Regulations 2008. These documents are accessible through this link <http://www.justice.gov.uk/coroners-burial-cremation/cremation> and I would be grateful if you could ensure that you now use these versions. I am writing separately to the bodies representing funeral directors and the British Medical Association.

For the most part the changes are minor. However, you may wish to note that we have expanded the guidance for medical practitioners in terms of *who* may sign forms Cremation 4 and 5, as well as where form Cremation 5 might not be needed.

We have also appended a list of potentially hazardous implants to all the guidance notes to help applicants, funeral directors and crematoria to identify those which may need to be removed prior to cremation. As before, the actual removal of any potentially hazardous implants remains an operational matter for which the Ministry of Justice cannot provide any guidance.

You may be aware of a further change to the Department of Health's implementation timetable for introducing its death certification reforms. The abolition of the role of medical referee and introduction of amended Cremation Regulations has also been adjusted to this change which is currently scheduled for October 2013. As before, any queries about the implementation timetable or the mechanics of the death certification should be directed to the death certification reform team at the Department of Health ([DeathCertification@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:DeathCertification@dh.gsi.gov.uk)).

Finally, Jo Noble, with whom many of you have dealt over the last couple of years on cremation issues will shortly be leaving my team on promotion. Would you please

address any queries about cremation in future to Barrie Thurlow in my team  
([barrie.thurlow@justice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:barrie.thurlow@justice.gsi.gov.uk); ☎ 0203 334 6406)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Judith Bernstein', written in a cursive style.

**Judith Bernstein**  
**Head of Coroners, Burial, Cremation and Inquiries Policy**