

# Telling People About the Death

**When there has been a death as a result of a crime, the police will inform the next of kin as soon as they can.**

**You may want to let family and friends know or you may want someone to tell them on your behalf.**

**This is a guide to help you prepare for telling people about what has happened, knowing your options and knowing what to expect.**

## Some Things to Consider When Preparing Yourself to Tell Others

- News of the crime may spread quickly through the media and social media. If you want to make sure a person finds out about the news personally, you should contact them promptly
- You can make a list of people who need to be informed. This will help you to keep track and make sure you don't forget anyone that is important to you or the person who has died
- Talking to your family members and people closest to you will be difficult and you may like to think about what you are going to say, and perhaps write it down, before you make contact
- It is often best to tell people simply and directly  
Starting with "I have some very bad news to tell you," can help people to prepare themselves for the shock
- You may not feel able to tell others about the death immediately. You can ask friends, family or a Key Worker to tell people on your behalf

## **These Are Other Things You Might Want to Consider When Informing Others**

- When informing people, they may be in shock. You should be prepared to repeat your message a number of times
- You can ask people not to post about what has happened on social media but you should be prepared for people to post about it publicly anyway
- People might want to ask questions that you do not want to answer. It's okay to say to people, "I don't want to say any more right now"
- Sometimes people are very public about their grief on social media, even people who were not that close to the person who died. If this upsets you, you can ask people not to post and report their content to the social media platform if they continue
- You might want to mute your social media if you do not want to engage online
- It is important not to offer information about what happened or say anything about the accused as this could have a negative impact on the case
- After contacting people you might receive unsolicited gifts, flowers and food. People might send you letters or cards

**You can use this space to write down what you might want to say when you are contacting people.**