

# Understanding the Roles of Professionals Involved Following a Sudden or Unexplained Death



## NHS SCOTLAND

Provides a range of services:

- Contact with emergency services.
- Ongoing care and support via General Practitioner services.

## SCOTTISH AMBULANCE SERVICE

Provides a frontline emergency service, with the main aim being to preserve life.

## POLICE SCOTLAND

- Uniformed police will deliver the news of a death.
- The Police Family Liaison Service formulates a relationship between Police Scotland and a family who are bereaved to facilitate further investigation. They will also assist with any media interest.

## COPFS

- Carries out further inquiry and recovers evidence.
- Legally responsible for the body and may instruct a post mortem examination.
- May also instruct a fatal accident inquiry or criminal proceedings.

Please visit [www.sad.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.sad.scot.nhs.uk) to watch a short animated film on this topic and for other educational resources on death, dying and bereavement for health and social care professionals.

