

The background is a gradient of purple, transitioning from a lighter shade at the top to a darker shade at the bottom. Scattered across the upper and middle sections are several realistic water droplets of various sizes, some with highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The text is centered in the upper-middle part of the image.

# DYING AT HOME BUREAUCRATIC OBSTACLES

DR. PHILIP S.L. BEH

# DEATH CERTIFICATE

- EVERY DEATH IN HONG KONG MUST BE REGISTERED – LEADING TO THE ISSUE OF A DEATH CERTIFICATE BY THE REGISTRAR OF DEATH.
- WITHOUT THE DEATH CERTIFICATE:-
  - THE BODY CANNOT BE MOVED.
  - BURIAL OR CREMATION CANNOT TAKE PLACE.

# TWO WAYS TO GETTING A DEATH CERTIFICATE

REGISTERED DOCTOR ISSUES  
A MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF  
THE CAUSE OF DEATH

NEXT OF KIN PRESENTS TO  
REGISTRAR OF DEATH

DEATH CERTIFICATE ISSUED  
BURIAL OR CREMATION  
ORDER OBTAINED

NO MEDICAL CERTIFICATE  
OF THE CAUSE OF DEATH –  
REPORTED TO CORONER

CORONER ISSUES  
AUTOPSY ORDER,  
WAIVER OF  
AUTOPSY ORDER,  
BURIAL OR  
CREMATION ORDER.

# WHERE YOU DIE

- IN HOSPITAL
- REGISTERED DOCTOR CERTIFIES DEATH – ISSUES MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF THE CAUSE OF DEATH OR
- REGISTERED DOCTOR CERTIFIES DEATH – REPORTS THE DEATH TO THE CORONER
- OUT OF HOSPITAL
- NO CERTIFICATION OF DEATH – BODY TRANSPORTED TO A&E FOR CERTIFICATION OF DEATH
- RARELY MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF CAUSE OF DEATH ISSUED – HENCE CASE REPORTED TO CORONER
- OBVIOUSLY DEAD CASES – DIRECTLY TRANSPORTED TO PUBLIC MORTUARIES AND REPORTED TO CORONER

# WHY DOES ONE WANT TO DIE AT HOME?

- FAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS
- ACCOMPANIED BY LOVED ONES



# WHY IS IT SO DIFFICULT TO DIE AT HOME IN HONG KONG?

- INSUFFICIENT SUPPORT
- FEW REGISTERED DOCTOR WILLING TO VISIT PATIENTS AT HOME – AT LEAST ONCE EVERY 14 DAYS AND ALSO AT THE TIME OF DEATH TO CERTIFY THE DEATH AND ISSUE THE MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF THE CAUSE OF DEATH.
- POLICE NOT ACCUSTOMED TO SUCH PRACTICES – RELUCTANT TO ISSUE FORM 8 (SCHEDULE 2 OF BIRTHS AND DEATH REGISTRATION ORDINANCE CAP 174 LAWS OF HONG KONG)

Form 8

[s. 16(1)]

Permit for removal and burial of dead body

Permission is hereby given to \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ to remove and bury the  
dead body of one called \_\_\_\_\_ from the floor of No. \_\_\_\_\_, to

Dated the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

(Signed) *Officer in charge*  
No. \_\_\_\_\_ Police station

No fee is payable for this permit.

*(Amended L.N. 51 of 1974; L.N. 497 of 1994; 8 of 2006 s.  
18; E.R. 6 of 2019)*

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# OTHER OBSTACLES

- REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS ARE NOT OPERATING A 24 HOUR SERVICE.
- TRANSPORT OF BODIES – FUNERAL SERVICES ARE NOT 24 HOURS



# WAYS FORWARD

- BETTER CROSS-SECTORIAL COMMUNICATION AND CONSENSUS ON PROMOTING DEATH AT HOME PROGRAMS.
- REGISTERED DOCTORS WILLING TO VISIT HOMES AND TO MAKE DECISIONS ON CAUSE OF DEATH OR REPORTING THE DEATH – NEEDS TO BE ABLE TO WORK WITH POLICE OFFICER TO HELP POLICE OFFICER TO BE COMFORTABLE ABOUT ISSUING FORM 8
- DEATH REGISTRY WORK HOURS (OR) DIGITAL REPORTING
- FUNERAL SERVICES AVAILABILITY FOR BODY TRANSPORT

# OTHER OBSTACLES – DEATHS IN HOSPITAL

- DELAYS IN MAKING DECISION ON REPORTING OR NOT REPORTING A DEATH
- PROCEDURAL DELAYS IN ARRANGING INTERVIEWS WITH PATHOLOGISTS REVIEWING THE DEATH FOR THE CORONER
- DELAYS AT THE CORONERS COURT – FOR APPLICATION OF WAIVER OF AUTOPSIES
- DELAYS IN COMPLETION OF DEATH INVESTIGATION AND ISSUE OF DEATH CERTIFICATE

# SUPPORTING THE FUTURE

- ADVANCED DIRECTIVES CAN IDEALLY ALSO COVER THE WISHES OF AN INDIVIDUAL ON HOW THEY WANT TO DIE AND WHERE THEY WANT TO DIE.
- A MUCH MORE INTEGRATED SYSTEM BETWEEN LAWYERS, PALLIATIVE CARE AND FAMILY AS WELL AS VISITING DOCTORS NEEDED.

The background features a light blue-to-white gradient. Numerous realistic water droplets of various sizes are scattered across the frame, with some in the top-left and bottom-right corners. A faint, large circular pattern is visible in the upper-middle section of the image.

**THANK YOU**