

The Difficulty in Planning a Funeral

Discussing funeral arrangements with close family members, especially with children, can be the most difficult conversation to have. At times, because of the nature of the topic, some may even discourage having the conversation.

While planning a funeral can be a complicated process, it can even be more difficult by the emotional stress that accompanies the death of a loved one. However, many arrangements can be made ahead of time to decrease the burden on family members.

Here is offered a list of many of the issues to consider when planning a funeral. While by no means complete, this guide can offer some assistance.

Most importantly, a copy of this listing should be placed with your important papers so that your wishes be known and carried out at the proper time.

General Preparations

Assemble your personal information for an obituary.

Decide where in-lieu-of-flower donations shall be directed.

Select memorial folders and acknowledgement cards.

If there is to be a burial you may wish to select a casket.

If a cremation is to take place, you may wish to choose a cremation container, a burial vault or cremation urn

Choose a floral arrangement

Select a photograph to be displayed

Decide what the deceased will wear

Select a memorial register

Select memorial folders and acknowledgement cards

Assemble your personal information for an obituary.

Decide where in-lieu-of-flower donations shall be directed?

Choose a Funeral Home

The name of the Funeral Home:

Will there be visitation hours and a Wake Service on the day prior to the Funeral Service

If there is to be a burial, type of casket: (wood, metal, etc.)

or a cremation container

Will the casket be open or closed?

Decide what the deceased will wear

Do you wish the Funeral Home Services provide:

Hearse

Family limousine

Pallbearer limousine

Flower car

Whom do you wish to be your Pallbearers?

Select a memorial register

The Church Service

The Church where the funeral is to be held:

Along with the Pastor, other clergy you wish to have participate

Do you wish an organist? A Deacon to assist the Priest

In consultation with the Pastor, select a family member or friend to read scripture

Will there be a Military Service also offered?

Cemetery:

Choose a cemetery

Select a burial or cremation plot

Record the plot location:

Decide whether above or below-ground

Select a burial vault or cremation urn

Select a memorial or grave marker and inscription

Number of graves at that location

Which space is to be yours

Other spaces are to be reserved for

If there is no burial plot arranged, where would you prefer burial

If you request cremation, the ashes are to be

Scattered, buried, or kept by a family member

Will there be a memorial meal following the internment

Where is it to be held

Choose a floral arrangement

Select a photograph you wish to be displayed

Please note that the following items cannot be arranged beforehand but are offered as items that will need attention.

Ambulance transfer from place of death

Apply for death certificates

Apply for a burial permit

Set a time and date for the service

Request preparation and embalming

Compose and submit obituary

Arrange location and food for the reception