

Funeral Planning Checklist

A list of all of the issues to consider when planning a funeral.

Planning a funeral is a complicated process, which is made even more difficult by the emotional stress that accompanies the death of a loved one. Fortunately, many of the arrangements can be made ahead of time, which will decrease the burden on those left behind. Use the checklist below when discussing funeral plans with your loved one, to make sure that his or her final wishes are carried out.

Pre-Planning

All of these items can be arranged in advance of a person's death.

General Preparations

- Assemble personal information for obituary
- Choose a charity to direct donations to
- Decide if jewelry is to remain or be returned
- Choose a funeral home

Funeral Home Services

- Choose burial or cremation
- Select a casket or cremation container
- Select a burial vault or cremation urn
- Choose the location/type of service
- Choose family viewing or visitation
- Choose a floral arrangement
- Select a photograph to be displayed
- Decide which religious or fraternal items are to be displayed
- Decide what the deceased will wear
- Select music, hymns, and solos
- Select scripture or literature to be read
- Select a memorial register
- Select memorial folders and acknowledgement cards

Funeral Home Services: Transportation

- Funeral coach
- Clergy car
- Family limousine
- Pallbearer limousine
- Flower car

Participants

- Choose clergy or officiator
- Choose organist or other musical participants
- Select pallbearers
- Select family member or friend to perform the eulogy
- Select family member or friend to read scripture or literature

Cemetery Selections

- Choose a cemetery
- Select a burial or cremation plot

Decide whether above or below ground
Select a memorial or grave marker and inscription

Final Arrangements

The following items cannot be arranged beforehand.

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

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