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Welcome to Burpee-Scott Memorial Chapel & Crematory

The funeral home is an important part of any community. In addition to providing a variety of necessary services to the community such as burial services, cremation services, memorial services and celebrations of life, funeral homes also serve as resources for those grieving the loss of a loved one.

When it comes time to make the decision regarding the funeral home you will trust to care for a loved one or to take care of your pre-planning arrangements, we offer the following information about our company history and our valued staff.

Our funeral directors and associates are available to answer your questions and help with arrangements. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

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Burpee-Scott Memorial Chapel & Crematory

Our Valued Staff



Jody S. Scott
Owner
Funeral Director



Tim Burpee
Owner



Steve Burpee
Owner



Brad Kile
Apprentice Funeral
Director



David Holley
Funeral Attendant



Sonny Peterman
Funeral Attendant



Tony Yarbrough
Funeral Attendant



James Hall
Visitation Attendant
and Greeter



Zach Ivester
Funeral Attendant



Bill Smith
Family Service
Counselor



Sheila Burpee
Office Manager



**Angela Morton
Scott**
Office Manager

Planning A Funeral

Most of us are not prepared to plan and carry out a funeral ceremony for someone we love. And so much of the information available on this critically important subject fails to focus on what is most important: having a personalized, meaningful funeral that helps families and friends begin the healing process of mourning after the death of someone we love.

Our funeral home's dedicated staff wants to help you and can play a critical role in planning and carrying out a meaningful funeral or memorial service. Our licensed funeral directors are intimately familiar with the funeral planning process, key decisions a grieving family must make, and necessary legal documentation that is required during this difficult time. Our funeral professionals can handle all of the details and help you create a unique service that fits your needs and values.

Meaningful funeral ceremonies make a significant difference in how families channel their grief toward health and healing. During the funeral, the community comes together and responds to the reality that someone has died, and also to the reality that those remaining will need support, compassion, love, hope, and understanding. The funeral encourages you to think about the person who has died and to explore the meaning of their life and the ways in which they touched the lives of others.

The remembering, reflecting and choices that take place in the planning and conducting of the funeral service are often an important part of the process of grief and mourning. And ultimately, this process of contemplation and discovery creates a memorable and moving funeral experience for all who attend.

The following list of information will be needed when funeral arrangements are made:

- Full Name of Deceased
- Date of Birth
- Place of Birth
- Social Security Number
- Father's Name
- Mother's Maiden Name
- Last or Usual Occupation
- Education Level
- Name of Minister Officiating at funeral
- Cemetery Information- if available
- Veteran Information - if available
- Meaningful Funerals





Pre-Planning

The Advantages of Planning Ahead

The idea behind planning ahead is simple. One day, a great deal of vital information about you or a loved one will be needed by your family and anyone whose responsibility it is to assist them. Those who plan ahead can be assured that, not only will their personal wishes be fulfilled, but other unnecessary difficulties will be avoided.

Both you and your loved ones can benefit when funeral arrangements are made well ahead of need. It can be beneficial to include your immediate family in those plans, ensuring those left behind are aware of your wishes and able to plan a meaningful funeral that will help them begin their mourning. By discussing plans in advance, you can take all the time necessary to make decisions about cremation or burial, type of ceremony and other funeral elements.

You may want to discuss your thoughts and decisions with your family and a funeral service professional. The Meaningful Funerals Companion Guide can be used to capture your wishes and biographical information in advance. Upon completion, simply store it in a safe place with your other important documents.

Most of us plan ahead in life. We plan for our wedding, our children's education, family vacations, and other significant expected life events. We also plan for the unexpected events of life by purchasing home, auto and medical insurance.

Understanding the benefits of pre-planning has prompted many to take the step to plan their own arrangements.



Why Pre-Plan?

Peace of Mind

Pre-planning takes the burden of making important decisions off your loved ones during a difficult time.

Financial Assurance

Pre-payment of your funeral through our Funeral Home will render the costs associated with your final expenses inflation proof.

Longevity

Pre planning your funeral will make certain that your choices are respected and carried out, without leaving your family to wonder what your wishes might have been.

You also have the option of paying for your funeral in advance. This locks in the cost of the funeral at today's prices.

There are many different ways to begin the planning ahead conversation. You know your family and how your loved ones might best respond to the topic. For some families, it might be a casual conversation over dinner or another family gathering. For other families, a formal meeting might be better suited.

Regardless of your approach, the conversation is much easier to have when death is not imminent. Bringing up the subject with loved ones earlier in life when they are younger, and most likely healthier, makes the topic easier to discuss and keeps the focus on the celebration of life rather than an impending loss.

How Would A Pre-Need Help?

Pre-Planning is a loving gift you can make for your family and survivors that provides complete peace of mind to everyone involved.

- Why should you make Pre-Arrangements for your funeral?
- You can plan together as a family, rather than alone (after the death)
- You help spare your loved ones from having to make difficult decisions
- It ensures your wishes are well-documented and carried out
- Ensures all your personal documents are organized and easy for your survivors to locate
- It helps control costs and reduces emotional overspending
- Eliminates the need to enter a casket selection room at the time of death
- You can personalize your plan to reflect your unique personality

Here are some tips that may help you start the advance planning conversation with your loved ones:

Set a time to have the conversation. Schedule it as an appointment with your loved ones, whether you want to share your plans with them or ask them to make their plans to share with you.

Tell your parent or loved one that you want to ensure their final arrangements are done according to their wishes, and you need their help to make that happen.

Ease into the conversation. Questions such as “Have you ever thought about where you would like to be buried?” or “What type of funeral would you like to have?” may open the discussion to more details about your loved one’s wishes.

Take advantage of funeral-related opportunities. Attending the funeral of a friend, family member or colleague or watching a movie or television show with funeral scenes may naturally prompt the discussion with your own loved ones. Talk about what you liked or didn’t like about the services you saw or attended.



Life & Trust Insurance

Life Insurance will pay a fixed amount based on the face value of the policy. Generally, the face amount is not the same as the amount of the services, merchandise and cemetery costs selected or required. Unless the pre-need contract is guaranteed, the actual costs may be greater than the policy proceeds at the time of need and additional funds may be needed from the survivors.

Funeral Insurance can be purchased in an amount to pay the costs of the services, merchandise and cemetery costs selected or required. If the prices are guaranteed, the survivors will not be charged more than the contracted amount. Before you purchase funeral insurance, you should know, in writing, exactly how much you will pay over the length of the contract and what will happen if you cannot, or do not, pay the premiums. This can be purchased at Burpee-Scott Memorial Chapel.

Funeral Trusts can be purchased in an amount to pay the costs of the services, merchandise and cemetery costs selected or required. If the prices are guaranteed, the survivors will not be charged more than the contracted amount. Before you buy a funeral trust, you should know: If the prices are guaranteed; the terms of cancellation; if the funds increase in value who will receive any remaining funds after the contract is fulfilled; what happens if the death occurs before the trust is paid in full.

Savings Accounts or bank-held trusts are accounts established by you with the savings in loan or bank, to pay funeral expenses. These are generally not guaranteed cost contracts by the service and merchandise provider. You would need to notify the provider and your family of their existence. You have complete control of your funds.



Funeral Arrangements

Whether you're planning for yourself or for a loved one, the funeral service is one of the most important elements of a person's final arrangements. With the opportunity for great personalization, the funeral service can truly reflect the uniqueness of the life it honors.

There's no one, right way to plan a funeral service, we believe that each funeral should be as unique and memorable as the life it honors.

When planning your own funeral service in advance, think about the way you want to be remembered. Perhaps you'd like a traditional funeral aligned with certain religious or ethnic customs. Or, a celebration focusing on great memories made with family and friends may be your preference. Maybe it's a combination of both. You can have one service, or several, to honor your life.

Regardless of whether you or your loved one have opted for burial or for cremation, the funeral or memorial service serves an important role. It can:

- Honor, recognize and celebrate the life of the deceased
- Allow friends and family to say their last good-byes
- Provide closure after the loss of a loved one
- Allow friends to console the family of the loved one

What Is A Funeral?

Burial Plans

When considering final arrangements for yourself or a loved one, one of the first decisions you might make is whether you prefer burial or cremation. This decision often influences other important considerations, such as elements of the funeral service and type of cemetery property.

Memorial or Tribute Service

At a memorial or tribute service, a casket or urn is usually not present. Otherwise similar to a funeral or visitation, a memorial service gives family and friends a time to come together in your memory and celebrate your life.

Funeral Service

A formal or informal ceremony or ritual prior to burial, a funeral service often provides a sense of closure to family and friends. Although your faith or culture may dictate some elements of a funeral service, you may want to personalize other elements of the service. At a funeral service, a casket or urn is present, though you may choose to have the casket open or closed.

Visitation, Wake or Viewing

Held the night before or immediately prior to the funeral service, the visitation - also called a wake or a viewing - provides a way for friends and acquaintances to pay respects and offer condolences to your family. As with the funeral service, you may want to decide if you want an open or closed casket should one be present.

Graveside Service

As its name implies, a graveside service may be held at the grave site just prior to burial of a casket or urn, and usually consists of final remarks, prayers or memories. The service may occur after or in place of a funeral service.

Regardless of the service or services you choose to include in your funeral plan, you can personalize them in almost any way imaginable. For example, just consider the following questions:

- Where should the funeral be held? At your place of worship? At the funeral home?
- Who should officiate the service?
- Will your service adhere to the traditions of your faith or culture?
- Do you want a eulogy, and who should deliver it?
- Would you like an open or closed casket?
- What music should be played?
- What readings would you like to have?
- Is there a special poem you'd like shared with the guests?
- Are there any special photographs or other memorabilia you would like displayed?

Cemetery Property

In addition to funeral services and the choice of burial or cremation, cemetery property, or “interment rights,” is another consideration when you’re making final arrangements, either for yourself in advance, or for a loved one.

Burial

Most people are familiar with the concept of burial, or “interment,” but may not be aware of the variety of options that are often available. Many cemeteries offer one or more of the following:

- Ground Burial: burial of the casket below ground. A “vault” or “outer burial container” is required at many cemeteries.
- Mausoleum, or Community Mausoleum: a large building that provides above ground entombments.
- Private Family Mausoleum: a small structure that provides above-ground entombment of, on average, two to twelve decedents.
- Companion Crypt: permits two interments or entombments side-by-side.
- Private Family Estate: a small section of a cemetery, usually bordered by gates, shrubbery, or other dividers, that allows for ground burial of several members of the same family.

A few facts about cremation:

Cremation cannot occur until there is a signed death certificate by a doctor.

There is a 24 hour waiting period before cremation.

- This alleviates misidentification
- Allows time for family to reconsider, if they choose
- If you choose cremation for your loved one you can still have a service.
- You have numerous options for the final resting place
- You can place the cremains in a special urn to display at home
- You can bury an urn in a cemetery providing a permanent resting place where family and friends can visit.
- You can place a portion of cremains in an urn and a portion in a columbarium niche, providing a permanent location where you can pay your respects
- You can scatter the cremains



Practical Information For Your Survivors

In addition to preplanning your funeral, completing a Personal Information Form and giving a copy to your estate trustee, spouse and children will give you the peace of mind of knowing they will have all the information they need to properly handle your wishes and the details of your estate.

Don't put this form in your safety deposit box as these can be sealed until after the funeral.

About cremation

Cremation is an alternative to earth burial or mausoleum entombment: it does not limit the funeral in any way. Should you choose cremation, you will still have the same options for memorialization that any other family has. Cremation can take place before or after the funeral service. In this section, we've answered the most common questions we are asked about cremation. If you require further information, please contact us at any time.

What is cremation?

Cremation is a process of reducing the body to bone fragments by applying intense heat for a period of two to three hours. The cremated remains, which are commonly referred to as "ashes," are removed from the cremation chamber. They are then processed into finer fragments and placed in a temporary container. The ashes weigh typically between three and six pounds. An urn maybe selected for the final disposition of the cremated remains.

Do we need to buy a casket?

GA State Law requires that at a minimum, the deceased must be placed into a rigid combustible container. Many options of caskets and containers are available to you.

Can we place personal mementos in the casket prior to cremation?

Many personal items may be placed in the casket; however, some items may need to be removed prior to the cremation process. All items left in the casket will be destroyed during the cremation. Your funeral director can advise you on what items may stay and what items must be removed from the casket.

Do we need to have a funeral if we select cremation?

Cremation does not limit the type of funeral service that maybe chosen. The same options that apply to earth burial are available with cremation. Some of these choices include: casket type, location of the service and visitation, music selection, open casket and the display of personal mementos. Some families elect to have a complete service at the funeral home or place of worship. Others prefer to have a procession to the crematorium, similar to that often done to the cemetery, for an earth burial.

What To Do First - A Checklist

Notify these people as soon as possible:

- ☐ The funeral home to arrange for the transfer of the deceased (usually this can be done within 1-2 hours although it may take longer to obtain a release from the hospital) and set an appointment with you to make further arrangements
- ☐ Relatives, executor/executrix and friends
- ☐ Employers (the employer of the deceased and relatives who will need time off)
- ☐ Insurance agents (life, health and accident)
- ☐ Religious, fraternal, civic and veterans organizations and unions, if applicable
- ☐ Lawyer and accountant

Secure the vital statistics of deceased

- ☐ Full legal name - other names must be identified by "also known as" (AKA)
- ☐ Home address and telephone number
- ☐ Name of business or employer's name, address and telephone number
- ☐ Industry and occupation
- ☐ Military service serial number
- ☐ Date and place of birth
- ☐ Citizenship
- ☐ Father's name and birthplace
- ☐ Mother's name, maiden name & birthplace
- ☐ Locate the will

Pay for:

- ☐ Ambulance services, if any
- ☐ Funeral arrangements, including clergy, florist and transportation
- ☐ Cemetery and memorialization services
- ☐ Current and urgent bills (i.e. mortgage, rent, taxes, telephone, etc.)

Meet with funeral home decide within a few hours:

- ☐ Clothing that the deceased will be buried or cremated in
- ☐ Whether your loved one is to be buried, cremated or entombed
- ☐ The Funeral Director will ask if you have made any arrangements with a cemetery or crematorium. If you have not done this, you will need to visit the cemetery.
- ☐ Service details - would you like a visitation period, formal service, a reception?
- ☐ Whether a member of the clergy will be engaged for the service
- ☐ Pallbearers, music, pictures, flowers, scripture or other readings
- ☐ Casket selection
- ☐ If you would like a charity to receive donations in lieu of flowers

If Cremation:

- Would you like to use our chapel for a short service prior to the cremation?
- What type of urn would you prefer (Metal, wood, marble, ceramic, etc.)?
- What type of final resting place would you prefer for your loved one (choice of burial, above ground niches or scattering of cremated remains)?
- Would you like other members of the family to be with your loved one in the future? This determines the size of the resting place.

Decisions to be made regarding burial of an urn:

- What type of memorial do you prefer (bronze or granite marker set flush with the ground or an upright memorial)?
- Would you like to protect your loved one's urn with a concrete vault?

Decisions to be made regarding above ground niches:

- Would you like the niche to be inside a building or outside?
- What type of material would you like the niche to be constructed from? Granite or bronze are choices for outdoor niches and marble or glass are choices for indoor.

Decisions to be made regarding scattering:

- Would you like to be present for the scattering?
- Would you like a memorial to be placed in the area?

If Casket Burial:

- Would you like other members of the family to be with your loved one in the future? This determines the size of the lot.
- What type of memorial do you prefer (a marker set flush with the ground or an upright memorial)?
- Would you like to protect your loved one's casket with a concrete vault
- What type of presentation would you prefer for the burial service e.g. a tent canopy, chairs, mats leading to the grave etc.?

If Casket Entombment:

- Would you like other members of the family to be with your loved one in the future? This determines the size of the crypt.
- What type of memorial package would you prefer?



What Can We Do With The Cremains?

Burial: The cremated remains may be buried in an existing cemetery plot or a new plot may be purchased.

Inurnment: The urn may be placed in a niche in an above ground structure called a columbarium.

Scattering: Cemeteries have scattering areas on their property. Please check local laws for scattering.

Keeping: Many people prefer to have the urn at home with them.

Shipping: You may wish for the cremated remains to be shipped to another country. We can look after these arrangements for you. You may also be permitted to take the cremated remains yourself to another country. Check with us first and we can assist you too.



Expressions Of Sympathy

Listen with your heart: Helping begins with your ability to be an active listener. Your physical presence and desire to listen without judging are critical helping tools. Don't worry so much about what you will say. Just concentrate on listening to the words that are being shared with you.

Be compassionate: Give your friend permission to express his or her feelings without fear of criticism. Learn from your friend; don't instruct or set expectations about how he or she should respond. Never say, "I know just how you feel." You don't. Think about your helper role as someone who "walks with," not "behind" or "in front of" the one who is mourning.

Avoid clichés: Words, particularly clichés, can be extremely painful for a grieving friend. Clichés are trite comments often intended to diminish the loss by providing simple solutions to difficult realities. Comments like, "You are holding up so well," "Time heals all wounds," "Think of all you still have to be thankful for" or "Just be happy that he's out of his pain" are not constructive. Instead, they hurt and make a friend's journey through grief more difficult.

Offer practical help: Preparing food, washing clothes, cleaning the house or answering the telephone are just a few of the practical ways of showing you care.

Understand the uniqueness of grief: Keep in mind that your friend's grief is unique. No one will respond to the death of someone loved in exactly the same way. While it may be possible to talk about similar phases shared by grieving people, everyone is different and shaped by experiences in their own unique lives.

Make contact: Your presence at the funeral is important. As a ritual, the funeral provides an opportunity for you to express your love and concern at this time of need. As you pay tribute to a life that is now passed, you have a chance to support grieving friends and family. At the funeral, a touch of your hand, a look in your eye or even a hug often communicates more than any words could ever say.

Share a favorite memory of the person who died: Relate the special qualities that you valued in him or her. These words will often be a loving gift to your grieving friend, words that will be reread and remembered for years. Use the name of the person who has died either in your personal note or when you talk to your friend. Hearing that name can be comforting, and it confirms that you have not forgotten this important person who was so much a part of your friend's life.



What Is Grief?

“Grief is reaching out for someone who’s always been there, only to find when you need them the most, one last time, they’re gone.”

The death of a loved one is life’s most painful event. People’s reactions to death remain one of society’s least understood and most off-limits topics for discussion. Oftentimes, griever are left totally alone in dealing with their pain, loneliness, and isolation.

Grief is a natural emotion that follows death. It hurts. Sadness, denial, guilt, physical discomfort, and sleeplessness are some of the symptoms of grief. It is like an open wound which must become healed. At times, it seems as if this healing will never happen. While some of life’s spontaneity begins to return, it never seems to get back to the way it was. It is still incomplete. We know, however, that these feelings of being incomplete can disappear.

Healing is a process of allowing ourselves to feel, experience, and accept the pain. In other words, we give ourselves permission to heal. Allowing ourselves to accept these feelings is the beginning of that process. The healing process can take much less time than we have been led to believe.

There are two missing parts. One is a safe, loving, professionally guided atmosphere in which to express our feelings; the other is knowing how and what to communicate.

The grieving process

When we experience a major loss, grief is the normal and natural way our mind and body react. Everyone grieves differently. And at the same time there are common patterns people tend to share.

For example, someone experiencing grief usually moves through a series of emotional stages, such as shock, numbness, guilt, anger and denial. And physical responses are typical also. They can include: sleeplessness, inability to eat or concentrate, lack of energy, and lack of interest in activities previously enjoyed.

Time always plays an important role in the grieving process. As the days, weeks and months go by, the person who is experiencing loss moves through emotional and physical reactions that normally lead toward acceptance, healing and getting on with life as fully as possible.

Sometimes a person can become overwhelmed or bogged down in the grieving process. Serious losses are never easy to deal with, but someone who is having trouble beginning to actively re-engage in life after a few months should consider getting professional help. For example, if continual depression or physical symptoms such as loss of appetite, inability to sleep, or chronic lack of energy persists, it is probably time to see a doctor.

Allow yourself to mourn

Someone you love has died. You are now faced with the difficult, but important, need to mourn. Mourning is the open expression of your thoughts and feelings regarding the

death and the person who has died. It is an essential part of healing. You are beginning a journey that is often frightening, painful, overwhelming and sometimes lonely. This brochure provides practical suggestions to help you move toward healing in your personal grief experience.

Realize your grief is unique

Your grief is unique. No one will grieve in exactly the same way. Your experience will be influenced by a variety of factors: the relationship you had with the person who died, the circumstances surrounding the death, your emotional support system and your cultural and religious background.

As a result of these factors, you will grieve in your own special way. Don't try to compare your experience with that of other people or to adopt assumptions about just how long your grief should last. Consider taking a "one-day-at-a-time" approach that allows you to grieve at your own pace.



Talk about your grief

Express your grief openly. By sharing your grief outside yourself, healing occurs. Ignoring your grief won't make it go away; talking about it often makes you feel better. Allow yourself to speak from your heart, not just your head. Doing so doesn't mean you are losing control, or going "crazy". It is a normal part of your grief journey. Find caring friends and relatives who will listen without judging. Seek out those persons who will "Walk with, not in front of" or "behind" you in your journey through grief. Avoid people who are critical or who try to steal your grief from you. They may tell you, "keep your chin up" or "carry on" or "be happy." While these comments may be well intended, you do not have to accept them. You have a right to express your grief; no one has the right to take it away.

Expect to feel a multitude of emotions

Experiencing a loss affects your head, heart and spirit. So you may experience a variety of emotions as part of your grief work. Confusion, disorganization, fear, guilt, relief or explosive emotions are just a few of the emotions you may feel. Sometimes these emotions will follow each other within a short period of time. Or they may occur simultaneously.

As strange as some of these emotions may seem, they are normal and healthy. Allow yourself to learn from these feelings. And don't be surprised if out of nowhere you suddenly experience surges of grief, even at the most unexpected times. These grief attacks can be frightening and leave you feeling overwhelmed. They are, however, a natural response to the death of someone loved. Find someone who understands your feelings and will allow you to talk about them.

Allow for numbness

Feeling dazed or numb when someone loved dies is often part of your early grief experience. This numbness serves a valuable purpose: it gives your emotions time to catch up with what your mind has told you. This feeling helps create insulation from the reality of the death until you are more able to tolerate what you don't want to believe.

Embrace your spirituality

If faith is part of your life, express it in ways that seem appropriate to you. Allow yourself to be around people who understand and support your religious beliefs. If you are angry with God because of the death of someone you loved, recognize this feeling as a normal part of your grief work. Find someone to talk with who won't be critical of whatever thoughts and feelings you need to explore.

You may hear someone say, "With faith, you don't need to grieve." Don't believe it. Having your personal faith does not insulate you from needing to talk out and explore your thoughts and feelings. To deny your grief is to invite problems that build up inside you. Express your faith, but express your grief as well.

Allow a search for meaning

You may find yourself asking, "Why did he die?" "Why this way?" "Why now?" The search for meaning is another normal part of the healing process. Some questions have answers. Some do not. Actually, the healing occurs in the opportunity to pose the questions, not necessarily in answering them. Find a supportive friend who will listen responsively as you search for meaning.

Treasure your memories

Memories are one of the best legacies that exist after someone loved dies. Treasure them. Share them with your family and friends. Recognize that your memories may make you laugh or cry. In either case, they are a lasting part of the relationship that you had with a very special person in your life.

Move toward your grief and heal

The capacity to love requires the necessity to grieve when someone you love dies. You can't heal unless you openly express your grief. Denying your grief will only make it become more confusing and overwhelming. Embrace your grief and heal.

Reconciling your grief will not happen quickly. Remember, grief is a process, not an event. Be patient and tolerant with yourself. Never forget that the death of someone loved changes your life forever. It's not that you won't be happy again. It's simply that you will never be exactly the same as you were before the death.

Accepting a loss

For each of us - rich or poor, young or old - there are times in our lives when we must face and deal with personal losses and the pain and sorrow they cause. Examples that come easily to mind are the death of a parent, spouse, child, or other close family member or friend.

Many other events and transitions also bring with them sadness and a need to grieve:

- Being told you have a serious, possibly terminal illness.
- Having to give up interests and activities that have been a major part of your life.
- Seeing serious decline in mental or physical health of someone you love.
- Retiring from a work career or voluntary activity that has helped shape who you are and what you stand for.
- Losing a significant part of your independence and mobility; even giving up driving a car can be a significant loss for many people.
- Moving out of your home.
- Saying goodbye to a favorite pet.

Losses such as these are simply part of living. Like their counterparts among the joyful occasions in our lifetime - the birth of a child or grandchild, a celebration of marriage, an enduring friendship - they are part of what it means to share in the human experience. And the emotions they create in us are part of living, as well.

"The experience of grief is powerful. So, too, is your ability to help yourself heal. In doing the work of grieving, you are moving toward a renewed sense of meaning and purpose in your life."

- Dr. Alan D. Wolfelt, Center for
Loss and Life Transition

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is having a funeral ceremony important?

Throughout human history, and around the globe, people have gathered together to acknowledge the death of a member of the community. No matter who the deceased was, a funeral ceremony is the one (and sometimes the only) opportunity for everyone to come together to acknowledge their death, recognize the community's shared loss and share the burden of grief.

What is the average cost of a funeral service?

The National Funeral Directors Association states the national median cost of a funeral details the average costs of a funeral in 2012: \$7,045 (however, if a burial vault is required by the cemetery—and it usually is—the median cost can rise as high as \$8,343). These statistics aside, the cost of a funeral service is wholly dependent on the specific services and products selected by the family member(s) responsible for making funeral arrangements. Your funeral director will thoroughly explain all options, ask the important questions about your family's budget restrictions; and otherwise do everything he or she can to provide you with a funeral, memorial service or celebration-of-life that meets your emotional and social needs, all the while staying in line with your financial expectations.

How does the cost for a funeral ceremony compare to the cost of a memorial service or celebration-of-life?

Attempting to compare the costs of the three is rather like trying to compare oranges, mangoes and apples; it can't be done. Perhaps it's easier to see funerals, memorial services and celebrations-of-life as three points on a spectrum—a range, if you like—of ceremonial formats. At one end is the funeral; at the other, the celebration-of-life, and in the middle, the memorial service. The funeral is most commonly the most expensive of the three; which is especially easy to see when you consider the cost of the casket is a significant expense. The cost of any of the three is totally dependent on the choices you make during the arrangement conference.

Who should be invited to a funeral?

It's a lot like asking 'who should be invited to a wedding': people who would want to be there. A person's role at a funeral is two-fold: one, they are there to demonstrate support for the bereaved family. Second, funeral guests are there to tend to their own sorrow; to begin to come to terms, in the safety of a shared collective experience, with the death of someone they held dear. While it's not common to send out invitations to a funeral (generally, the service details are published in the newspaper or online, and those who wish to attend, do); it does make a certain amount of sense to reach out to certain individuals by phone, email, or social media to ensure

they are aware of the service date/time (and express your desire for their presence). When preparing the guest list for a funeral service, you should both listen to your heart and use common sense. You know the people that mattered most to your loved one, as well as those who mattered least. Whatever you do, don't invite more people than the venue can comfortably handle.

Is it necessary to have flowers at the ceremony?

Flowers create a background of warmth and beauty which adds to the dignity and consolation of the funeral service. "Necessary" may not be the right word; but there's no doubt flowers at a funeral or other end-of-life ceremony serve many valuable purposes including a means of a visual expression of sympathy, love and respect or a means of lending support.

What does the phrase "in lieu of flowers" mean?

You may have read this phrase in an obituary: "In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to...". Derived from the French phrase, "en lieu", strictly speaking "in lieu" means "in place"; so it can be said to be a directive sentence: "In place of flowers, contributions may be made to...". But it's really important to realize that its use doesn't imply you can't send flowers to the service; it is only meant to offer you a choice of ways to show your sympathy for the family and show your respects for the deceased. Only when the obituary states "no flowers please" are you being requested to abstain from sending floral tributes or sympathy arrangements.

If one is requested, am I obligated to make a memorial donation?

Certainly not; it's important to never feel obligated to do anything in response to the death of a community or family member. Your actions (whether sending flowers, preparing a casserole and taking it to the family home, or making a donation) should always come from the heart.

What's involved in preparing the body for viewing at a visitation or funeral?

The preparation of the deceased can involve a number of different tasks performed by trained and licensed embalmer and restorative artists. Without going into too much detail; the body is temporarily preserved by embalming, refrigeration, or a combination of the two. It is washed, dressed and otherwise groomed; then placed in the chosen casket for viewing. Should you wish to know more about the process, contact us. There are also many excellent articles online describing the process in greater detail.

If it makes people uncomfortable, why is it necessary to view the body in the casket?

Human beings are interesting creatures: sometimes we need to see in order to truly believe. It's a way of confirming the fact that, indeed, this individual is dead; but it's also an opportunity to say your "good-byes". You may find it a cathartic time where you can quietly share a long-held secret, let go of any anger or resentment, and otherwise come to terms with their death.

How can I best prepare my children to attend a funeral?

When asked this question, we like to tell people it's best done with honesty and awareness. Let them know basically what they can expect. Advise them there will be people there who will be sad and may cry openly; tell them there will be time for some people to stand up and talk about how much they loved the person (but they won't be required to do so). Let them ask all the questions they need to ask, reassure them you'll be right next to them throughout the experience. Never force them to go to a funeral, and always give them the opportunity to change their mind about attending.

What is a celebrant?

The Celebrant Foundation and Institute define celebrants as "trained professionals who believe in the power and effectiveness of ceremony and ritual to serve basic needs of society and the individual. The Celebrant's mission is to help the client create a ceremony that reflects his or her beliefs, philosophy of life, and personality." A life-cycle celebrant is especially valuable when a family has no religious affiliations or ties to a clergy person or minister who can officiate the funeral service, but involving a celebrant in the funeral planning process has been found to enhance the funeral experience for all concerned. "The Celebrant comes to the table with no agenda," shares the Institute's website, "and no preconceived notion of what the ceremony should or must look like. Instead, through careful interviewing, the Celebrant elicits what is meaningful for each client." If you think hiring a celebrant is the right for your family's situation, contact us for more details.

How long is a funeral service?

Simply put, "it depends on the service". Just as no two movies or novels are the same length or cover the same emotional ground; no two end-of-life ceremonies are the same.

Must I wear black to the funeral ceremony?

Black used to be the only color to wear to a funeral; but not anymore. Today things are less formal than they once were, and it's not totally uncommon for families to ask prospective guests to altogether avoid wearing black clothing. Should you have additional questions about funeral attire or etiquette, please contact us.

What Else Would You Like to Know?

This list of frequently-asked-questions was compiled through our professional experiences. But really, the thanks go to the hundreds of inquisitive, questioning families and individuals we've had the privilege of serving over the years: people who've asked the most commonly-asked questions you see here. If yours isn't listed here, get the answer you need by calling us at (478) 333-3006.



To My Loved Ones:

I wanted to spare you as much anxiety, doubt and confusion as possible at the time of my death, so in this booklet I have suggested some arrangements in advance.

This booklet includes vital statistics, funeral service guidelines and cemetery requests, which are all important to the funeral director while assisting you to plan the details of my service.

The booklet also includes more personal material for eulogies, obituaries and other remembrances.

Please accept these arrangements in the spirit in which they are given; with love, hoping to give you comfort and help you to remember the times we shared.

Signature Date:

Witness..... Date:

First Person To Be Notified Upon My Death:

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Relationship:.....

Notes:

Vital Statistics About Me:

Name:

Address:

City:

State: Zip Code:

Social Security Number:

Date of Birth:

Gender:

Place of Birth:

Occupation:

Employer:

Business/Industry:

Military Service:

Marital Status:

Maiden Name:

Name of Spouse:

Father's Name:

His Place of Birth:

Mother's Name (Including Maiden Name):

Her Place of Birth:

My Preferences For The Service:

☐ Burpee-Scott Memorial Chapel

☐ Reception Room

☐ Place of Worship Address of Place of Worship

☐ Other Address of other location:.....

Clergy or Officiant:.....or ☐ Funeral Home to Recommend

Name:

Contact Information:

Personal Items:

Eyeglasses: ☐ Remove

☐ Leave On

Jewelry: ☐ Remove

☐ Leave On

Clothing: ☐ Purchase at the time

☐ Selected

Musical Tributes:

Soloist:.....

Organist/Pianist:

Congregational Hymns:.....

.....

Favorite Genre or Artist:

Community Organizations or Clubs that may participate:

Information For Newspapers - A Guideline:

Place of Death:

Date of Death:

Spouse, widow or widower of:

Married for number of years:

Children, their spouses and their places of residence:

.....

.....

Grandchildren, their spouses and their places of residence:

.....

.....

Siblings, their spouses and their places of residence:

.....

.....

Education:

Clubs and Lodges:

Military Service:

Special Interests, hobbies and pets, etc:

Memorial Donations:

.....

Cemetery Instructions:

Name of Cemetery:

Address:

City:

State:

Property, crypt or niche owned?

If yes, specify location written on cemetery purchase agreement:

.....

Final resting place: ☐ Earth Burial ☐ Mausoleum

☐ Interment following Cremation ☐ Other

Marker or Monument:.....

Purchased: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Monument company name:

If no, inscription instructions:

Reception location: ☐ Reception Room ☐ Place of Worship ☐ Other

☐ Reception to follow Cemetery☐ Reception to follow Service

Notes:



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I believe professional advice is essential if you want to make educated financial decisions. I can help.

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