

Michigan law determines who can make decisions in carrying out your final wishes. This is especially important for those choosing cremation.

The order of priority in Michigan is:

1. If you are a service member, the person who may be designated by federal law.
2. *The person you designate as your funeral representative*
3. Your surviving spouse.
4. Your children (over age 18).\*
5. Your grandchildren (over age 18). \*
6. Your parents.\*
7. Your grandparents.\*
8. Your siblings.\*
9. Your niece or nephew.\*
10. Your aunt, uncle or cousin.\*
11. Your guardian.
12. Personal representative of your estate.
13. Appointed personal representative by probate court.
14. Medical examiner.

\*Must be by majority.

This law allows you to name a funeral representative, who is a person over 18 years of age with the authority to make decisions regarding your final arrangements and resting place after death. You are also allowed to name a successor funeral representative if the first named person is unable to act. This new role of funeral representative in Michigan is especially important if you do not have family members, or they do not live close by. Your funeral representative has the “right and power to make decisions about funeral arrangements and the handling, disposition, or disinterment of a decedent’s body, including, but not limited to, decisions about cremation, and the right to possess cremated remains of the decedent.” [MCL 700.1104\(j\)](#). Before being allowed to act, your funeral representative must sign an acknowledgment of their duties. The power to act is only effective after your death, and the power to act cannot be assigned to someone else by your funeral representative.

If you would like to name a funeral representative, please complete, notarize and return the MFDA Funeral Representative Designation form.