The agency should help the family with funeral planning. While the line-of-duty death of a law enforcement officer affects the agency, its personnel and the community, the funeral must honor the family’s wishes – even if it does not follow tradition.

**FUNERAL CUSTOMS FOR LINE-OF-DUTY DEATHS INCLUDE:**
- Flags at half-staff
- Casket watch
- Honor guard
- Flag-draped casket
- Flag presentation (Please consider providing more than one folded flag – e.g. one to spouse and one to parents)
- Mourning shroud on badges and department buildings
- 21-gun salute
- Last call
- Playing of “Taps”

**SUPPORTING THE FAMILY**

One liaison officer should be assigned to the spouse and a second liaison officer should be assigned to the parents, if applicable. This places less pressure on the spouse to keep the in-law family informed and leads to better relations. Being a liaison officer is an emotionally difficult assignment. Officers should be closely monitored for evidence of self care.

The liaison officer will:
- Make sure the needs of the family come before the wishes of the department.
- Meet with the family regarding funeral arrangements. Since most officers do not prearrange their own funerals, the family should make all the decisions.
- Oversee arrangements for travel and lodging for out-of-town family, and provide assistance getting them from the airport to the hotel and funeral services.
- Be available to the family throughout this traumatic time.
- Find out what the public safety fraternal/labor organization involvement will be and what financial assistance they are providing for out-of-town family travel, feeding the officers assigned to the funeral details, feeding funeral attendees following the burial, etc.
- See that the surviving parents, siblings, and all biological children and step-children – especially those with former spouses – are recognized and will have appropriate seating during the funeral and funeral procession.
- Brief the family on the funeral procedure.

The agency should consider transporting the family to and from the funeral home and all of the planned services.