

My Personal Wishes

A Guide to Funeral Planning

Name _____



605-886-5876

1111 4th Street NE ~ PO Box 724

Watertown, SD 57201-0724

www.wightandcomes.com



Wight & Comes Funeral Chapel

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Personal Wishes of

Location of important papers/keys:

Next of Kin and phone numbers:

If you have a preference, our funeral directors are:

Michael J. Wight:
mwight@wightandcomes.com _____

Morrie D. Comes:
comes@wightandcomes.com _____

Serena Mack Schlapkohl:
serena@wightandcomes.com _____

If death should occur out of town or out of state, you only need to make one call to us ~ 605-886-5876

(To avoid additional costs of another funeral home).

Why Make Plans Now

This booklet will help guide you through the basics of funeral planning; it will give you a place to record your wishes and pertinent information that will be needed at the time of your death. We suggest that you share your wishes with your family so they are aware of your wishes and how to carry them out. You may want to keep a copy of this booklet at home or with your family. It is however very important that the funeral home receives this booklet back (we can make a copy of it) to be placed in our fireproof filing cabinet. Letting your family or friends know your wishes will be very beneficial for your own, as well as your family's peace of mind.

Thank you for selecting the Wight & Comes Funeral Chapel to carry out your final wishes. It is an honor for us to be with you and your family to guide and direct them towards a path of healing when that very difficult time comes. If you have any questions we would be happy to go through everything with you and your family.

Please call (605) 886-5876.

“We take the time to care”

Our Funeral Directors



Michael J. Wight



Morrie D. Comes



Serena M. Schlapkohl

Funding of Pre-arranged Funeral Contracts

Our funeral directors would be happy to consult with you on what expenses to expect and give you an estimate. Please call or come in for any assistance. Also, you can put your wishes in writing even if you don't want to fund it right now.

Trust Funded: is when funds are placed in a Funeral Savings Account or Certificate of Deposit (CD) with a bank, Savings & Loan, or Federal Credit Union. The interest accumulates at the going rate and would likely keep up with inflationary increases earned at year-end and would have to add this income onto other annual income for income tax purposes. All accounts must be federally insured and are covered by a contract that complies with State laws.

Insurance Funded: is when funds are placed in a life insurance product. The funds grow with interest and the growth is not reportable to the internal revenue service. A single premium or multiple pay policies are available to fit your budget. Another method of funding your funeral is by using an existing life insurance policy and complete an irrevocable assignment of the proceeds to fund the funeral. Only the amount indebted to the funeral chapel will be paid and the remaining amount will be paid to the beneficiary. The terms of the life insurance remains the same in regards to ownership, premiums, beneficiaries, face values and growth.

Both methods of funding: a funeral contract simply creates a "savings account" where whatever amount of money was deposited along with its growth would be used toward the funeral at the time need. The amount can be set based on a current estimate, but no guarantee is made as to what the fund will be able to buy. If there is more money than needs at the time of death, the funds would be returned to the family. If the family wants to spend more than what is in the contract at the time of death, they would simply pay the balance.

Important Papers: Does your family (or friends) know the location of your will, your insurance company's names and policy numbers, etc. Some families will bring their insurance policies (if they have been assigned to us) for safe keeping in our fireproof file. An important service that we provide is to file the insurance death claims.

Do you know the type of service you want?

Mark (X) on the service you prefer and fill out the information as you go through the booklet; we will need to gather statistical information regardless of the choice selected. We realize this is a lot of information so, please feel free to call when you have a question. We can, also, help you fill it out. You can always make changes.

_____ **Traditional Funeral Service**

~ Fill out all of the information

_____ **Traditional Funeral Service with cremation AFTER service**

~ Fill out cemetery (if applicable), service, obituary, and death certificate information

_____ **Immediate Cremation with Memorial Service**

~ Fill out cemetery (if applicable), service, obituary, and death certificate information

_____ **Graveside Service only for full burial or cremated remains**

~ Fill out cemetery, service, obituary and death cert. information

_____ **Immediate Burial with no funeral services**

~ Fill out cemetery (if applicable), service, obituary, and death certificate information

_____ **Immediate Cremation ~ no service (burial only or Other)**

~ Fill out cemetery (if applicable), obituary and death certificate information

Other kind of Services or Notes: _____

The funeral services of today vary from years ago. Today a more personalized touch is often preferred, creating a more comforting atmosphere.

Burial can be prior to any service if family wishes. The burial (interment) or any other resting place for the deceased is sometimes referred to as the "disposition" or the final destination.

Service Information

Church

Funeral Home

Other

Cont. Obituary or Notes:

Services location name: _____

Visitation held at: _____

Would you like Scripture/wake service, prayer service, rosary etc.?

Please specify _____

Viewing is your personal choice. Most families find comfort in seeing their loved one. It helps to accept the finality of the death and to be able to say "good-bye".

With viewing of the body:

Open casket during visitation: _____

Or viewing only for the family: _____

With No viewing of the body: Some people prefer not to be viewed ~ casket will be closed as family wishes. _____

Clergy: _____

Organist: _____

Soloist: _____

Special Songs: Indicate whether you would like these sung by the congregation or soloist: _____

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

Scripture/Readings: _____

Memorial Folders: (favorite poem, scriptures, etc.)

Do you have something special you would like put on your memorial folder? We have many customized folders we print here at our chapel and you are welcome to look at them. We have memory tables, easels and video tribute production available.

Memory table items: _____

Funeral Lunch Preference: _____

You may continue your obit on additional paper.

Organ donation: Your family may be asked about organ donations at the time of death so we urge you to discuss this with your family. Knowing your wishes is one less thing your family will have to decide for you when asked.

Write your own obituary if you would like:

Cemetery: _____

City & County: _____

Plot Purchased: Yes _____ No _____

Do you have a grave plot purchased? Do you plan on purchasing a monument? Are you considering a mausoleum or columbarium niche for cremated remains? If you do not know what you want, perhaps your family can help you decide. For casketed burials, most cemeteries require an outer burial receptacle ~ vault or concrete liner. We keep a file on the surrounding cemetery's rules and regulations. A vault has added strength and protection and there are many to choose from. A concrete liner (also called grave box) is the minimum requirement accepted. The choice is yours and we can explain the different options to you.

For cremated remains (sometimes referred to as "cremains"). You may want to look at the vast array of urns we have in our selection room. An urn can be "set" almost any place, but there are a few regulations concerning the remains if you decide to have them scattered. Normally when an urn is buried it does not require a vault, however we do have urn vaults if you decide on me.

Veterans: If you are a veteran and your cemetery has a veterans section, you may qualify for plot that is free of charge. There may be other veteran benefits available as well. To inquire or check the status of your eligibility we will need VA Form DD-214 (Discharge papers).

Monuments: There are many types and colors of monuments. You may have to ask what your cemetery allows before making a purchase. Or you can visit with a monument representation for those answers and they can also help you design your own marker. Having a monument in place may take even more stress off your family.

Your Preferred Clothing

We will care for and clothe you in the same respectful manner in which we have cared for our own family members who have passed away.

Traditional funeral attire may not be your choice of clothing. You may prefer your favorite golfing, fishing, or hunting shirt with slacks or your favorite pair of jeans. Perhaps you have a special dress, suit or maybe a favorite pair of pajamas/robe with booties or slippers. Sometimes families ask us if they need to bring in undergarments and the answer is yes. Whatever is normally worn should be brought in. Shoes are not necessary unless you prefer.

Clothing you prefer:

**I have no preference _____

Going through the closet of a loved one to select funeral attire can be very stressful. In choosing your clothing ahead of time you can reduce the emotional stress it may have on your family.

Hair

A current or favorite picture will be helpful, however this can wait until later. We will need a photo to accompany the obituary for the newspapers and to place in the folder if you prefer.

Describe how your hair should be styled and hairdresser's name (if necessary):

We style men's hair unless you prefer a barber.

Number of Grandchildren: _____

Number of Great-grandchildren: _____

You can name them if you wish on the next page.

Preceded in Death by:

Pallbearers: Normally 6- Men and/or women

Honorary Pallbearers or Groups:

What newspapers would you like your obituary run in? Most papers will charge to run an obituary, however there are a few small papers that do not charge.

Florist Preference? Watertown Flowers, Hy-Vee, Blossom Shop

Flowers of choice and color?

Church affiliation / groups

Memberships/awards:

Survivors

Spouse: _____

Parents: _____

Children and their spouses: City & State In birth order:

Example: Mary (John) Smith, Watertown, SD

<u>Name</u>	<u>City & State</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Name of Siblings: ~ Same format as Children

<u>Name</u>	<u>City & State</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Cosmetics

Cosmetic instructions (if any):

(Lipstick, eye shadow, rouge (blush) colors, eyeliner, mascara
~ we have cosmetics also)

Fingernail polish including color: _____
(We have polish in different colors or you can bring your own)

*Your favorite perfume or aftershave is nice to have available.
The familiar scent can have a comforting effect for the family.*

Jewelry

You may prefer to wear jewelry during visitation, then have it removed before burial. After the service, any jewelry removed will be returned to your family or designed person. Some families want a memento or a personal item to be buried with their loved one.

Jewelry to be removed before burial:

Jewelry to remain on:

Other Items:

Obituary / Death Certificate Information

The information provided by you will help us to write the obituary and fill out the death certificate. The asterisks (*) denote the death certificate information that is required.

You can write your own obituary in the space provided in the booklet or we can compose the obituary for you from the information provided below. We will then send it to you for your approval.

*Your first, middle and last name: _____

* Marital Status:

Married Widowed Single Divorced

*Spouse's Name: Living or deceased (First, M.I. & Maiden):

*Your gender: Male _____ Female _____

*Your Birth Date: _____

*Your Birthplace: _____

*Social Security Number: _____

*Spouses Social Security Number if living: _____

*Race (circle one): White ~ Black ~ Native American ~
Hispanic origin ~ Other _____

*Father's Name (First, M.I. & Last):

*Mother's Name (First, M.I. & Maiden):

Where you grew up: _____

Where did you go to school? Year Graduated? College and Year Graduated? _____

*Highest School Grade Completed (in years) plus college years or degree level: _____

Marriage Date & Place: _____

Main Locations lived & dates: _____

*Are you a Veteran: _____ Branch: _____

Do you want Military rites: _____ Yes _____ No

Who would you like to perform the Military Rites?

_____ Branch of Service

_____ American Legion

_____ VFW

_____ Vietnam Veterans of America

****Keep in mind there may be Veteran benefits and we will need discharge papers (DD-214)****

*Main occupation and type of industry your main employment or business was related to: _____

Employment and years of service: _____

Memorial designation and address (if any): _____

Hobbies ~ Interests ~ Memberships: _____

