

Dust to Dust Green Burial / Nature Reserve Cemetery

205 Nulty Crossing, PO Box 277, Swansea, SC 29160

Office Phone: (803) 568-5552

Owner's Cell Phone: (803) 920-4074

Business Hours: 9am – 5pm Every Day

Cemetery Visitation: Sunrise – Sunset

Email: dust2dust@sc.rr.com

Website: www.dusttodustcemetery.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/dusttodustcemetery

Thank you for your interest in Dust to Dust Green Burial / Nature Reserve Cemetery. It is our hope that this informative packet will explain who we are and what we have to offer. If you have any questions or would simply like to talk with one of us at Dust to Dust, please do not hesitate to reach out.

We have your best interest at heart. We pride ourselves on our zero pressure, 100% transparent approach in an industry that seems to be filled with sneaky selling tactics that take advantage of families in their most vulnerable times. We strive to make an uncomfortable topic and experience as straightforward and stress-free as possible.



Michael Bishop

Owner

Cell Phone: (803) 920-4074

“For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Genesis 3:19b

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Frequently Asked Questions

What exactly is “green burial” or “natural burial?”

In a “green burial” or “natural burial,” there is no concrete, metal, toxic carcinogens (such as formaldehyde), or other unnatural materials allowed. We perform burials in the same fashion our ancestors performed them for thousands of years. The “traditional” burial style, specifically predominate here in the South, which requires concrete vaults, caskets made of unnatural materials, embalmed bodies, etc., has only become common practice within the last couple hundred years.

Why would I choose to have a green burial?

There are many advantages to green burial that appeal to people for a wide range of reasons. To start with the most apparent, it is by far the most environmentally responsible decision one can make concerning their final wishes. Why should we be burying 1.6 million tons of reinforced concrete, 107,000 tons of steel and copper, and 5.3 million gallons of toxic embalming fluid every year in the United States? These commonplace “traditions” that have been adopted are not a sustainable option nor do they serve a necessary purpose. Simplicity is another huge benefit of green burial. What we offer is as straightforward and simple as it gets. Processing the death of a family member or friend is already stressful enough. We believe the added stress of elaborate funeral plans, pressured sales, and expensive bills is unnecessary. A byproduct of cutting out the unnecessary materials and stressful routines is that green burial also happens to be significantly less expensive than other burial options, and even many cremation options. Our burial plots are 4 times larger than the vast majority of other cemeteries, yet our burials cost 4-10 times less than almost every other cemetery in South Carolina.

What sets Dust to Dust apart from other cemeteries, including other natural burial cemeteries?

Our transparency and simplicity are unheard of in this industry.

If you want to know the expense of being buried at our cemetery, we put our prices right out in the open for everyone to see. We don’t believe in the whole “call us to schedule a tour and learn more about pricing...” We have no interest in making a sale. Our interest lies in helping families make wise decisions.

We don’t believe in the “prestige” of having a large staff or a fancy office. If you have questions about the cemetery, or just want to talk to someone about the process, you’ll most likely speak directly with the owner, Michael Bishop. There are not many other businesses out there that you can call the owner directly on his cell.

The owner and/or his son perform the actual burials. Interesting fact: Most cemeteries don’t perform burials themselves. They pay a company to open and close the graves. All you’re purchasing from these cemeteries is the right to use a tiny piece of real estate. This is why, in addition to the plot price, they charge you an opening and closing fee. Dust to Dust does not charge an opening and closing fee. The price of our plots is the price of the entire burial. With Dust to Dust, you’re paying for a service.

We don’t charge more money for “at-need” situations vs. “pre-need” situations. It is common practice for a cemetery and/or funeral home to charge more money when handling “at-need” requests, meaning that someone has already passed but has not yet paid for arrangements. We don’t believe in preying upon people in this way. Our price is the same, regardless of situation.

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Given that the cemetery is located down a dirt road, out in the country, surrounded by family-owned farmland, we would have to say that it is one of the most peaceful and beautiful cemeteries in the state. We work hard to keep the property as natural as possible. There's just something different about visiting our cemetery, getting away from traffic, and being able to personally landscape a loved one's plot with flowers, shrubs, trees, and other natural materials. For some, this ability and environment serves to aid in the grieving process.

When you visit the cemetery, you'll see what sets us apart and you'll know if our cemetery is right for you.

Where is Dust to Dust Cemetery and what areas does it serve?

The cemetery is located at 205 Nulty Crossing in Swansea, South Carolina. There are no true boundaries to the areas we serve. Most frequently we service South Carolina, Georgia, and North Carolina, but we have done burials from as far as Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, etc. We even have people that have made arrangements to come from Texas, Massachusetts, and California. The range we serve depends on what an individual and/or family is willing to spend on mortuary transportation.

How did the cemetery begin and who operates it?

When Michael Bishop, owner of Dust to Dust, began planning his own final arrangements, he was bothered by the fact that, although his family left him cemetery plots, his surviving family would still owe over \$4,000 to the cemetery for various fees and required purchases. Michael began researching the process of being buried on his family farm. The more he learned about the laws, the more he thought to himself, "I can't be the only person that just wants to be buried without all the unnecessary stuff?". And thus, Dust to Dust Green Burial / Nature Reserve Cemetery opened on September 1, 2009.

The cemetery is owned and operated by Michael Bishop. If you want to talk to someone about the cemetery, Michael will most likely be the one to come out (probably wearing jeans and a t-shirt) and meet with you. Michael also performs the burials. Luke Bishop, Michael's son, has been around the business since day one and assists with performing burials. Holly Randolph, Michael's assistant, handles all the record keeping and office management. Anything to do with paperwork or computers, Holly will most likely be behind it.

What happens if the owner dies or is otherwise suddenly unable to run the cemetery?

When making such a long-term decision, we absolutely understand wanting to know what the future looks like for the company you want to do business with. Luke Bishop, Michael's oldest son, has been involved with the cemetery since it was founded. He knows the ins and outs of how the business operates and understands the identity of Dust to Dust. Luke will inherit the cemetery from Michael and will carry on with operations. Should something happen to both Michael and Luke, there are trained individuals which will step up to carry on operations as seamlessly as possible.

Why designate the land as a nature reserve and not offer "perpetual care?"

We do not believe in the concept of "perpetual care." It is simply impossible for a business or individual to guarantee that for perpetuity someone will be out at their cemetery cutting the grass. We do not support the idea of selling people based on empty promises. What we've done instead is zone the land as both a cemetery and nature reserve. We make no promises that someone will be out cutting the grass at the cemetery in 200 years. What we can promise is that we've done everything in our power to protect the land from ever being developed or used for any purpose outside of being a nature reserve and cemetery.

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Why are your burial plots significantly larger than most cemeteries?

When Michael started the cemetery, he had a biologist come out and evaluate the property. He was interested in knowing how large the plots would need to be to avoid killing the trees that were already present. It was determined that 8' x 10' would be a safe spacing to preserve enough of the trees' roots as to not kill or significantly weaken the trees. A bonus of the large plot size is that it gives families and friends an opportunity to landscape and make their loved ones' plot unique.

We are not at all concerned about space limitation. The areas totally surrounding the cemetery are owned by the Bishop's and have the ability to be zoned as cemetery and nature reserve as well. Although we've done hundreds of burials and are on track to do hundreds more in the next couple years, we have yet to use even a small fraction of the available, already paid for land.

What items can be used to decorate plots?

One of our main priorities is to maintain the natural look and feel of the cemetery. We want the cemetery to feel more like a peaceful nature reserve or park than a graveyard. With this comes the unfortunate responsibility of enforcing rules and regulations concerning the types of items that can be placed at the cemetery. Plots may not be decorated with any materials that are plastic, concrete, ceramic, tile, painted, stained, polished, metal, cut lumber, etc. All items used must be in a natural state. Essentially, if you can go out in nature and find whatever item you're wanting to put at the cemetery, it is more than likely allowed. Families and friends can plant flowers, bushes, and trees. They can landscape using logs, sticks, mulch, and rocks. Some even choose to put out corn for deer and other unique items. If you ever have a question about whether a particular item is allowed, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are happy to guide you in the right direction.

Can my pet be buried at Dust to Dust?

Yes. If you have already purchased an 8'x10' burial plot from us, your dog, cat, or other small animal can be buried on your plot at Dust to Dust at no further cost to you. Pet plots for owners who have not purchased an 8' x 10' burial plot can be purchased for \$500. These plots are 4' x 5'.

Do you have cremation plots?

Yes. We offer individual cremation plots for \$300. These plots are 32" x 30". Any 8' x 10' burial plot purchaser can agree to allow the cremains of anyone to be buried on their plot at no further cost as well. For example, if a husband wishes to be naturally buried and his wife would like to be cremated, the husband can purchase his 8' x 10' burial plot and specify that his wife's cremains are to be buried on his plot.

Is financing available?

Yes. Financing is available with us for pre-need contracts for as low as \$20 per month. If you would like to finance with us, you will need to submit a minimum of \$20 with your signed Dust to Dust Contract and signed Rules and Regulations pages. A minimum of \$20 will then be due by the same date each month until the account is paid in full. Checks should be sent to Dust to Dust Cemetery, PO Box 277, Swansea, SC 29160. Balance must be paid in full prior to using the plot. Should the account become 90 days late, the contract is void and reimbursements will not be given. Dust to Dust will send quarterly statements indicating your remaining balance.

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What if I want to be buried at Dust to Dust, but my family wants to hire a funeral director to run the service?

If your family chooses to hire a licensed funeral director, make sure they are aware that we do not allow embalmed bodies to be buried at our cemetery. Also make sure they understand that only a biodegradable casket may be used. By law, you can purchase a casket from another source or build a casket yourself. The funeral home must allow you to do so and is not allowed to charge you any type of fee associated with this. Your family will need to let the funeral director know where you plan to be buried. They can contact us, and we will make the burial arrangements with them. If your family hires a funeral director, the funeral director will be responsible for filling for the death certificate.

What if my family chooses to handle the arrangements themselves and not hire a funeral director?

When a family chooses not to hire a licensed funeral director, a family member or friend of the deceased must act as the funeral director. The following steps will become the responsibility of the acting funeral director. If you have any questions about this process, we would be glad to guide you through everything that will need to be handled.

- 1) A Burial-Removal-Transit Permit (BRT), which allows the body to be transported by the person you designate, will need to be issued by the county coroner. You may want to contact your county coroner in advance if you have any questions about this process.
- 2) The acting funeral director will need to contact the transporter of the body. Keep in mind it is within a family's right to do transport themselves. The transporter and the cemetery will coordinate the burial plans along with the family.
- 3) The family will need to decide whether it is desired to purchase a biodegradable casket or shroud. The acting funeral director will be responsible for the purchasing of or building of the casket or shroud.
- 4) Newspapers will need to be contacted by the acting funeral director to have an obituary printed, if desired. Your family will need to contact us regarding this, as deaths must be verified before obituaries can be printed. We recommend emailing the obituary, as well as any pictures you would like to include, to be posted on our Facebook page at no cost.
- 5) The acting funeral director will need to submit a signed Dust to Dust Contract, if one is not already on file, along with the signed Rules and Regulations, signed Acting Funeral Director form, and payment in full prior to the burial.
- 6) The acting funeral director will be responsible for coordinating the day and time of the burial with the cemetery and family, as well as coordinating any funeral, graveside, or memorial services.
- 7) Finally, the acting funeral director will need to file for the death certificate. This process will be similar across different states, although the terminology may be slightly different. For filing in South Carolina: The acting funeral director must file for the death certificate within 5 days of the death. We will provide you with the "South Carolina Certificate of Death Non-Funeral Home Worksheet." This filled out worksheet, along with the BRT we will provide to you, must be taken to DHEC's Vital Records Office for filing. The address of DHEC's main Vital Records Office is 2600 Bull St, Columbia, SC 29201. DHEC also has regional offices throughout the state, although they might not be as familiar with the process of having a non-licensed funeral director file for the death certificate. You may want to call your regional office in advance to ensure they are equipped to handle your request. Death certificates cost \$12.00 for the first copy and \$3 for each additional copy. While we cannot file the death certificate for you, we can answer any questions you may have about the process.

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Rules and Regulations

- 1) **Visitation is by appointment only.** Please call or text (803) 920-4074 to schedule an appointment. If you show up without an appointment, you may be asked to leave while a burial or service is underway.
- 2) There is no office located at the cemetery. There is not a Dust to Dust Representative present at the cemetery at all times. If you need to meet with someone, have a plot flagged, or otherwise be directed at the cemetery, you must contact us a minimum of 48 hours in advance to arrange this.
- 3) Plots may **not** be decorated with any materials that are plastic, concrete, ceramic, tile, painted, stained, polished, metal, cut lumber, etc. All items used must be in a natural state. **Any item(s) placed on plots which violate these Rules and Regulations will be removed and/or thrown away without notice.**
- 4) Any item(s) placed on plots may not exceed 12" in height, excluding living plants. Any item(s) taller than 12" must be approved by the cemetery.
- 5) Plants may be placed on plots but must be approved by the cemetery prior to planting to ensure they are noninvasive.
- 6) It is understood that heavy machinery may be required to drive over your plot(s) and dirt may have to be temporarily placed on your plot(s) to open an adjacent plot. It is the purchaser's responsibility to contact the cemetery to inquire about the status of the surrounding plots and the likelihood that their landscaping may be disrupted. The cemetery is not responsible for any damage and/or disruption to landscaping of plots.
- 7) Purchase of headstone / grave marker is the responsibility of the purchaser. Cost of the grave marker is not included in the prices listed our Contract, nor does the cemetery arrange the purchase of the grave marker. Grave marker type and content must be approved by the cemetery prior to installation. It is the purchaser's responsibility to contact the cemetery to have the plot flagged prior to installation to ensure the grave marker is placed within the correct plot. Grave markers may be moved if they are incorrectly placed. Grave markers may not exceed 2'x3' and must be installed flush with the ground. No vertical grave markers are allowed. No concrete, painted, stained, cut lumber, metal, or polished rock grave markers are allowed.
- 8) Benches are not allowed. You may see a small handful of benches at the cemetery. These have either been grandfathered in or the plot purchaser has been notified the bench must be removed. The presences of these benches does not mean future benches may be placed at the cemetery.
- 9) Dust to Dust is not a "perpetual care" cemetery. Dust to Dust is a nature reserve. No guarantees are made as to the maintenance of the property.
- 10) Dust to Dust will not be held responsible for stolen property, vandalism, or acts of God.
- 11) Dust to Dust is a natural burial cemetery. As such, the natural settling / collapsing of the earth, especially following heavy rains, is a part of our process. Dust to Dust will not be held responsible for injury that may be incurred as a result of our natural burial process. Please exercise caution when walking around the property.
- 12) The cemetery is a part of family-owned farmland. It is understood that animals, both wild and domesticated, may be present at times on the property.
- 13) Visitors may bring pets on the property so long as they remain leashed and under control during the entire duration of the visit. Animal owners are responsible for the actions of their animals.

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- 14) No vaults are allowed.
- 15) Only biodegradable caskets may be used. Caskets are not required.
- 16) No bodies will be accepted which have been embalmed with toxic chemicals, such as formaldehyde.
- 17) The cemetery must be notified a minimum of 24 hours prior to burial to ensure ample time to open plot.
- 18) Plots are designated by the cemetery for burial. Purchaser does not get to pick their plot. If purchaser has more than one plot, adjacent plots will be reserved upon burial for the other deed holders.
- 19) Purchase of plot secures the right to be buried within a plot. This does not give ownership of the land.
- 20) The cemetery will not buy back plots. Plot purchasers have the right to resell their plot(s). There is a \$50 transfer fee to redo the paperwork.
- 21) If you choose to make monthly payments with Dust to Dust, the following will apply to you:
 - To begin making monthly payments, purchaser will need to submit a signed Contract and signed Rules and Regulations form along with their first payment.
 - Balance will be paid in \$20 minimum installments, beginning on the date the Contract was originally signed, and are due by the same date each month until the balance is paid in full. Balances do not accrue interest.
 - Checks and/or money orders must be sent to Dust to Dust Cemetery, PO Box 277, Swansea, SC 29160.
 - Balance must be paid in full prior to using the plot.
 - Making monthly payments on a plot does not secure a specific plot location. A plot must be paid in full to be assigned a plot number.
 - The cemetery will send quarterly statements showing your remaining balance. The default method to receive these statements is via email. If you are not receiving your statements, please reach out to us so we can resolve the issue. If you would prefer to receive your quarterly statements via mail, please check the corresponding box below.
 - Email is my preferred method of receiving quarterly statements.
 - Printed and mailed is my preferred method of receiving quarterly statements.
 - Any charges upon cemetery resulting from insufficient funds will be reimbursed by purchaser.
 - **Should account become 90 days late, the contract is void and reimbursements will not be given.**

By signing below, you are agreeing to adhere to the Rules and Regulations and to make your best effort to inform family and friends of these Rules and Regulations.

x

Signature of Purchaser

Date of Signature

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Contract

Purchaser Information:

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Primary Phone: _____

Alternate Phone: _____

If this plot is not for the purchaser, please specify the individual which this plot is intended for:

Plot Intended For: _____

Relationship to Purchaser: _____

Please check all that apply:

- \$1,395 – 8' x 10' Burial Plot with Included Opening & Closing
- \$300 – 32" x 30" Cremation Plot
- \$500 – 4' x 5' Pet Plot
- \$300 – Scheduled Burial with or without Tent & Chairs Set-Up (Weather Permitting)
- Selected Items Paid in Full
- Selected Items Paid Monthly (Monthly payment specifications can be found in Rule and Regulations.)
- Yes. I give Dust to Dust permission to express their condolences to my family on their Facebook page.
- No. I do not give Dust to Dust permission to express their condolences to my family on their Facebook page.

By signing this contract, you are agreeing to adhere to the Rules and Regulations and state all information provided above is true and accurate. This Contract is not valid unless signed and notary seal imprinted by a Dust to Dust Representative. A copy of the signed Contract will be sent to you.

X

Signature of Purchaser Date of Signature

Monthly payments are currently being made. Contract is not yet paid in full.

X

Signature & Notary Seal of Dust to Dust Representative Date of Signature

Contract is paid in full.

X

Signature & Notary Seal of Dust to Dust Representative Date of Signature

For Office Use Only: Plot #: _____ Date Buried: _____

Sync with: _____

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Family Member / Friend Acting as Funeral Director

If you and/or your loved ones choose not to hire a licensed funeral director, a family member or friend must act as the funeral director. The following items are the responsibility of the individual acting as the funeral director. The acting funeral director is free to hire any company they desire to accomplish or assist with the following responsibilities. The cemetery cannot, and will not, be responsible for any of these items.

- 1) Submit any obituary information to newspaper companies, if desired. Alternatively, the obituary can be submitted to Dust to Dust via email (please send to dust2dust@sc.rr.com) to be posted on our Facebook page. This Facebook post can be shared by family members and friends, free of charge. Please submit the obituary in the exact form you would like it to be posted. It will simply be copied and pasted.
- 2) Arrange mortuary transportation.
- 3) Arrange the purchase of or building of the casket, if desired.
- 4) Dress the body, if desired.
- 5) Schedule and coordinate any funeral, graveside, and/or memorial services, if desired.
- 6) File for the death certificate.

If the individual acting as the funeral director is not the purchaser of the plot, please fill out the following information:

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Primary Phone: _____

Alternate Phone: _____

By signing below, you are acknowledging your responsibility in undertaking this role as acting funeral director.

x

Signature of Purchaser

Date of Signature

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End-of-Life Decisions Guide

Although thinking and talking about the topic of your death is not something you and your loved ones particularly want to do, a document containing your final requests is one of the best things you can leave behind. The people in your life, regardless of if they are currently receptive to discussing the matter, deserve to know exactly what your wishes are so they are not left to make such difficult decisions in an already vulnerable and stressful time. We have created this comprehensive guide for your personal use to help organize your final requests. We highly recommend thinking over the information listed in this guide, documenting your decisions, and sharing the document with your loved ones. We do not need a copy of this document.

My Full Name: _____

Organ Donation:

- I want to be an organ donor.
- I do not want to be an organ donor.

Cremation or Burial:

- I want to be cremated.
 - I want my ashes to be buried at: _____.
 - I do not want my ashes buried. I want my ashes to be: _____.
- I want to be buried, not cremated.
 - I want to be buried in a perpetual care cemetery. Location: _____.
 - I want to be buried in a natural burial cemetery. Location: _____.
 - I want to be buried on my own land.
 - My land has been surveyed.
 - My land does not have any deed restrictions.
 - My land meets county requirements as a zoned cemetery.
 - I have confirmed the following entity will open and close the grave: _____.

Mortuary Transportation:

- I want to be transported by a funeral home hearse.
- I want to be transported by a mortuary transport company.
- I want to be transported by: _____.
 - Individual named above has been made aware of this request.
 - Individual named above understands that a Burial-Removal-Transit Permit must be acquired prior to transport.
 - Individual named above has an adequate vehicle for transport.

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Grave Marker:

- I want a grave marker.
 - Money is no object for my grave marker.
 - The monetary limit for my grave marker should be: \$_____.
 - I want my grave marker to say: _____

_____.
 - My family should decide what my grave marker says.
- I do not want a grave marker.

Obituary:

- I want to have an obituary.
 - Things I would like to have included in my obituary: _____

_____.
 - My family should decide what to include in my obituary.
 - I would like to have my obituary published in the following newspaper(s) and understand this costs money: _____.
 - I do not want my family to spend money on publishing my obituary. I would prefer my family post my obituary on: _____.
- I do not have a preference whether I have an obituary. My family should make that decision.
- I do not want an obituary.

Casket or Shroud:

- I want a casket.
 - I have specific preferences about my casket.
 - Money is no object for my casket.
 - The monetary limit for my casket should be: \$_____.
 - I want a simple wooden casket.
 - My casket should be made of and/or include: _____
_____.
 - I do not have specific preferences about my casket. My family should choose my casket.
- I do not want a casket. I would like to be buried in a shroud.
 - My specific preferences about my shroud are: _____
_____.
 - I do not have specific preferences about my shroud. My family should choose my shroud.
- I do not want a casket or shroud. I would like to be buried in my clothes only.

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Services:

I want a funeral service (body present) at _____.

- Money is no object for my funeral service.
- The monetary limit for my funeral service should be: \$_____.
- I want a licensed funeral director hired to arrange my funeral service.
- I want my family to handle the arrangements for my funeral service.
- I want my pastor, priest, minister, etc. to perform my funeral service.¹
- There are specific people I would like to speak at my funeral service.²
- There are specific passages I would like read at my funeral service.³
- There are specific songs I would like played at my funeral service.⁴

I want a graveside service (body present) at: _____.

- Money is no object for my graveside service.
- The monetary limit for my graveside service should be: \$_____.
- I want a licensed funeral director hired to arrange my graveside service.
- I want my family to handle the arrangements for my graveside service.
- I want my pastor, priest, minister, etc. to perform my graveside service.¹
- There are specific people I would like to speak at my graveside service.²
- There are specific passages I would like read at my graveside service.³
- There are specific songs I would like played at my graveside service.⁴

I want a memorial / celebration of life service (no body present) at: _____.

- Money is no object for my memorial / celebration of life service.
- The monetary limit for my memorial / celebration of life service should be: \$_____.
- I want a licensed funeral director hired to arrange my memorial / celebration of life service.
- I want my family to handle the arrangements for my memorial / celebration of life service.
- I want my pastor, priest, minister, etc. to perform my memorial / celebration of life service.¹
- There are specific people I would like to speak at my memorial / celebration of life service.²
- There are specific passages I would like read at my memorial / celebration of life service.³
- There are specific songs I would like played at my memorial / celebration of life service.⁴

I do not want any type of service.

¹ Name & Contact Information: _____.

² Name(s) & Contact Information: _____.

³ To be Read: _____.

⁴ To be Played: _____.

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Miscellaneous Funeral Specifics:

Embalming:

- I want to be embalmed.
- I do not want to be embalmed.

Dressing:

- I would like to be dressed in a specific outfit. Please dress me in: _____.
- I do not have a preference as to what clothing I am buried in. My family should make that decision.

Open or Closed Casket:

- I want an open casket service.
 - I want my jaw closed.
 - I want my eyes closed.
 - I want my hair fixed.
 - I want make-up applied.

- I want a closed casket service.

Flowers and Other Condolence Gifts:

- I would like my family to accept flowers.
- In leu of flowers, I would prefer that my family request: _____.
- I do not have a preference about condolence gifts. My family should make decisions about these.

Further Thoughts, Comments, Ideas, and Requests:
