

You were named as a

Funeral Executor. Now What?

What the role means and how to prepare

Someone close to you has named you as their funeral executor. Being named is a meaningful expression of trust. It means someone looked carefully at the people in their life and chose you for a role that matters to them. It is also a responsibility worth understanding well before it is ever needed.

This guide explains what the role involves, the choices available to you, and a few practical steps you can take now so you are prepared if you are ever asked to serve.

> **If you were named as an alternate funeral executor,** you would be asked to serve only if the first-choice funeral executor is unable or unwilling to do so. The guidance below still applies, and a conversation with the family now is just as valuable.

What is a funeral executor?

A funeral executor is responsible for carrying out a person's wishes for their funeral or memorial service and their final resting place. Many states allow a person to formally designate who will control these decisions, which helps avoid confusion or disagreement among family members during an already difficult time.

While every arrangement is different, the role usually involves:

- Making arrangements for the funeral or memorial service and the final disposition of the remains
- Honoring any stated preferences, such as burial or cremation, a particular location, or specific music, readings, or traditions
- Coordinating with the executor of the estate so that funeral expenses are paid or reimbursed from estate funds

Who pays for the funeral?

Funeral costs are generally paid from the deceased person's estate. Some people also prepay for arrangements or set aside funds in a payable-on-death account for this purpose. If you pay any expenses yourself, keep every receipt so you can be reimbursed.

Do I have to serve as funeral executor?

No. Being nominated does not obligate you to serve. When the time comes, you can decide whether to accept the responsibility. If you decline, an alternate who was named can take over.

What should I do now?

These wishes are much easier to honor when they have been talked through ahead of time. A few topics worth covering:

- **Their preferences.** Burial or cremation, the type of service, location, and any religious or cultural traditions that matter to them.
- **Existing arrangements.** Whether they have a prepaid plan, a cemetery plot, or a preferred funeral home.
- **How it will be funded.** Whether funds have been set aside and how you would access them.
- **Who else should know.** Family members and friends who should be kept informed.

Let's plan for the next generation together

Helping families prepare for what comes next, across generations, is at the heart of our work. Whether you would like to talk through what this role could mean for you or you are ready to put your own plan in order, we would be glad to help.

Call 541-228-9924 **Email** nate@nwadvisory.com
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