



Funerals

Funerals, Etc. Checklist

Facing the challenges will be easier if preplanned. Think about preplanning for yourself and recommend it for others.

1) Funeral Home, Green Funeral or Crematorium?

- Have you indicated your preference for a traditional burial or entombment, a “green” burial or cremation?
- Did you elect to prepay for the funeral or cremation? If so, have you left the information, including the company’s name, address, telephone number, and plan number with your lawyer and/or executor?
- For a traditional burial or entombment, have you selected pallbearers and left their names and contact details with the executor or other “person in charge”?
- Are you a veteran? Will you be entitled to a military funeral?
- If you have chosen to be cremated, have you already purchased the urn for your ashes?
- Have you chosen a special verse, either from a religious text or secular writing for the memorial and/or prayer cards? Is there a photo of yourself or some other image you would prefer to have on these?
- Does the executor or other “person in charge” know where to find all of this information?

2) Moving the Body

- Have you contacted the funeral home or crematorium selected?
- Have you checked on the requirements for transporting a cadaver, either across state lines in the USA or internationally?
- Air transportation may cost as much as the funeral itself – will funds be available to cover this cost?
- If cremation is chosen, you may elect to have the body cremated where the death occurred and transport the ashes as carry-on luggage.

3) Death Certificates & Obituary

- You will need to obtain multiple original copies of the death certificate, as various organizations – Internal Revenue Service, financial institutions, retirement funds, etc. – will require an original copy.
- Have you written your own obituary? If not, have you asked someone to do so?



- Are there specific people you would like to have interviewed for input to your obituary?
- Where would you like to have this published, besides a newspaper – in a college alumni journal? A trade association newsletter? A fraternal or sororal organization’s newsletter? Make sure to leave this information for the executor or person in charge.

4) Memorial Service

- Will there be a service at the funeral home/crematorium, as well as a service later?
- Do you have a preference for the location of the memorial service?
- How will the details (date, location and time) be communicated?
- Who should be invited?
- Do you prefer a charitable contribution in lieu of flowers? If so, leave the details of this charity for the executor/person in charge.
- Do you have special requests for the eulogies – texts and/or speakers?
- What music – liturgical or secular – should be played at your memorial service?

5) Whom to notify?

- The same people in the “First Steps” section, also need to be notified about the memorial service.
- Employer? Organization for whom you volunteered? Any clubs or fraternal/sororal organizations? Caregiver(s) or domestic staff?
- Do you want cards sent to them with the death notification and the details of the memorial service?
- Have you shared all of this information with the executor or the person in charge?