

A GUIDE TO ARRANGING A FUNERAL

Losing someone you love can be the most difficult time in anyone's life, full of uncertainty .
That's why we have put together this easy read guide to arranging a funeral.

Step 1. When someone dies

Call their GP if the death was expected, or emergency services (999) if it was unexpected. The doctor will issue a medical certificate of the cause of death. Once this is completed contact your Funeral Director to take the person in to their care.

A medical examiner will check the cause of death to make sure it's accurate. You'll also be contacted by the medical examiner's office to confirm you can register the death. After you've registered the death, you'll get a certificate for burial or cremation (often called 'the green form') a unique code, so that you can use the Tell Us Once service and the death certificate, which you need to pay for.

Step 2. Getting advice/help

It is advised that you check to see if a prepaid Funeral Plan is in place or a will or Advanced statement, as this will help in arranging the funeral. Next discuss your wishes and requirements for the funeral in detail with the Funeral Director (FD), ensuring that all arrangements reflect your preferences. The FD will coordinate with the relevant parties to book and confirm the funeral date.

Step 3. Preparing for the funeral day

Once all the funeral arrangements are in place, there are several important considerations to ensure you are fully prepared for the day itself:

- Meeting the Officiant: Arrange a suitable time to meet with the officiant who will conduct the service. This allows for the discussion of the order of service, any readings or tributes, and to clarify any last-minute details.
- Music: Confirm your choices for music to be played during the service with the FD.
- Confirm Visual Tributes and Live Streaming: If you wish to include visual tributes, such as photo slideshows, or provide a live stream for those unable to attend with the FD
- Confirm Orders of Service: making sure enough copies are available for all attendees with the FD
- Flowers: Arrange yourself or with the FD for floral tributes to be delivered to the Funeral Home.
- Donations: When requesting donations, specify the name of the charity involved.
- Carrying the Coffin: If family or friends would like carrying the coffin, discuss and confirm their roles ahead of time to ensure everyone is comfortable with the process to the FD.

Step 4. Guidance and support

- All good Funeral Directors will be there for you every step of the way, arranging the bearers, order of service and Directing family members to name just a few tasks.
- Following the funeral, sometimes people cannot deal with grief on their own and need further support. Speak to you Funeral Director about grief counselling or various groups in the area

Governments tell us once service

- The Tell Us Once service allows you to inform all the relevant government departments when someone dies. You will still need to inform other places like private pension providers, banks, and utility companies. Their website is below

<https://www.gov.uk/after-a-death/organisations-you-need-to-contact-and-tell-us-once>



This leaflet is supplied by Meadowvale Funeral Services Ltd. Company number 13555726. The information provided is for advice only and it is recommended that you seek the relevant professional advice, depending on your circumstances.

Planning ahead checklist

Whatever stage you are at in your life it can be helpful to make plans for the future. Planning for End of Life can help other people know what you want, making it more likely your wishes will be understood.

Just as importantly it can help the people you leave behind during an upsetting time. The best way to do this is by making a will, but an End of Life plan (Advanced Statement) can be just as effective.

It doesn't have to say a lot, just the things that you think will help people when your gone.

Below is a checklist of some things to consider

I have made a will

☐

I've made decisions about what will happen to my online accounts

☐

I have Life insurance

☐

I have made an advanced statement

☐

I've made decisions about organ and tissue donation I have talked to my loved ones about these things

☐

I have chosen my Funeral Director and informed them of my wishes

☐

I've chosen someone to make decisions about my care if I become unable to

☐

I have paid for the funeral in advance

☐

I have arranged for someone to look after my finances if I am unable to

☐

I've organised what will happen to any pets

☐

I've made decisions about how and where I would prefer to be looked after

☐

I have chosen my next of Kin

☐

I've arranged who will look after any children or dependents

☐

I've left messages or advice to my loved ones through letters or videos

☐

I've made a bucket list of things I want to do before I die

☐

WE ARE HERE IF YOU NEED US

If you have been diagnosed with a life limiting illness, or you look after someone approaching End of Life, someone from Meadowvale can help. We have been looking after people in Redcar and Cleveland for over 10 years and understand how difficult it can be.

Get FREE advice and support from a qualified Funeral Director or a CQC registered Care company.

Call us on 01287 653063



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