

Funerals and Memorial Services

Funerals, memorial services and celebrations of life are very important ways of saying goodbye to someone who has died. They allow the living to fully recognize the death of their family member or friend, express their grief with others, and experience a feeling of closure. These ritual ceremonies are designed to honour and celebrate an individual's life. Have you considered planning your own funeral or memorial service in advance?

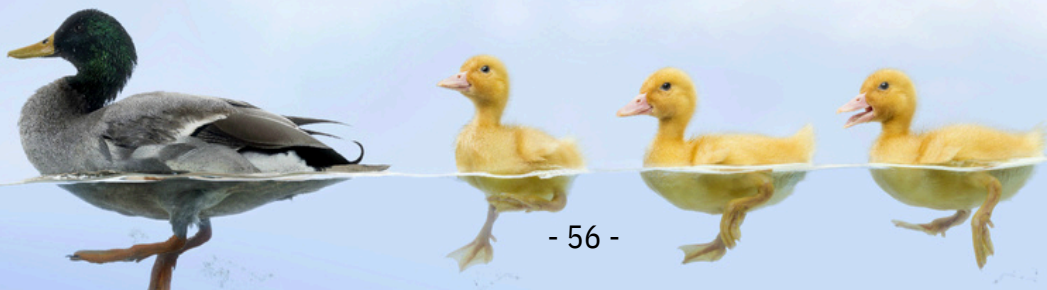
If you are unsure which type of service you would like held when you die, we have provided some information below to help you choose. This is very general information, as services will vary according to different cultures and religious traditions.

Funeral Service

- The body is present
- Traditionally held in a place of worship
- Usually a more formal/traditional service often led by a religious leader
- Often occurs within a few days after the death
- Usually has a higher cost than a memorial service

Memorial Service or Celebration of Life

- The body is not present, although the ashes could be present
- Burial could already have occurred prior to the service
- Can be held anywhere, often in a place that is meaningful to the family or deceased person
- Can be held prior to the individual's death, so that the dying person can say farewell to family and friends, often referred to as a "living funeral"
- Is often a community event that focuses on the unique attributes of the deceased, and usually includes stories, poems, and music that reflect his/her personality
- Usually less costly than a funeral



Pre-Arranged Funeral Service Information

I have pre-arranged my funeral: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Name of Funeral Home: <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	I have prepaid service costs: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Certificate #: <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>		

Funeral Service Preferences

Where I want the ceremony held: <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	I would like an open casket: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Closed casket present at service: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Casket Preference: <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	Visitation: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Visitation Preferences: <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
I would like my body embalmed: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	I have chosen clothing: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Description of clothing: <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
I wish to be cremated: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Urn Preference:	
Urn present at service:: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> wood <input type="checkbox"/> ceramic <input type="checkbox"/> granite <input type="checkbox"/> copper <input type="checkbox"/> brass <input type="checkbox"/> glass <input type="checkbox"/> porcelain <input type="checkbox"/> marble <input type="checkbox"/> other	
I wish to have a church service: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Name/Address of Church: <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	Clergy Member officiating: <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
I prefer a Funeral Home chapel service:	Name/Address of Funeral Home: <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	Who will officiate?: <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
My Eulogy is Prepared: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Eulogy is located here: <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	My eulogy will be read by: <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
Name & contact info of who will speak/read: <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	Preferred Vocalist/Musician: (name & contact info) <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	My Pallbearers: (name & contact info) <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>

Funeral Service Preferences

List of photos I would like used and where they are located:

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List of special readings, poems, scripture and/or rituals I would like:

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I would like a procession to the cemetery: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	I wish my remains to be transported in this vehicle: _____	Preferred Flowers: _____
Name of Preferred Florists: _____	Florist's Contact Information: _____	Would you refer donations be made in lieu of flowers?: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Charitable donations made to: _____	Address of Charity: _____	Charity's Website: _____
I would like an obituary published in the local newspaper: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	I have prepared my own obituary: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	My obituary is located here: _____
I have asked/I want this person to write my obituary for me:	I have completed the All About Me section which lists all of my biographical information: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Name/Contact Info:

Any other information about my funeral service wishes:

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Pre-Arranged Memorial Service/Celebration of Life

I have pre-arranged my service: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	I have prepaid the service costs: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Information is stored here:

Memorial Service/Celebration of Life Preferences

Where I want my memorial service to be held - ie. at family member's home, at a hotel, legion, pub, at the burial site, or at the site where my cremated remains will be spread:

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Who will lead the service?:

I wish to be cremated: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Urn P reference: <input type="checkbox"/> wood <input type="checkbox"/> ceramic <input type="checkbox"/> granite <input type="checkbox"/> copper <input type="checkbox"/> brass <input type="checkbox"/> glass <input type="checkbox"/> porcelain <input type="checkbox"/> marble <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Urn present at service: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	My Eulogy is Prepared: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Eulogy is located here:
I would like an obituary published in the local obituary: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	I have prepared my own newspaper: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	My obituary is located here:
I have asked/I want this person to write my obituary for me:	I have completed the All About Me section which lists all of my biographical information: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Name/Contact Info:

My eulogy will be read by: (name/contact info)	Preferred Vocalists/Musicians:	Song Preferences:
Others who will speak/read:		

Memorial Service Preferences

List of photos I would like used and where they are located:

List of special readings, poems, scripture and/or rituals I would like:

I would like a procession to the cemetery:	I wish my remains to be transported in this vehicle:	Preferred Flowers:
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Name of Preferred Florist:	Florist's Contact Information:	Would you prefer donations be made in lieu of flowers?: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Charitable Donations to:	Address of Charity:	Charity's Website:
I would like an obituary published in the local newspaper: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	I have prepared my own obituary: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	My obituary is located here:
I have asked/I want this person to write my obituary for me:	I have completed the <u>All About Me</u> section which lists all of my biographical information: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Any other information about my funeral service wishes:		

Making My Cemetery Arrangements

There are some important things to consider when making your cemetery arrangements. While the standard cemetery options include decisions about a ground burial, cremation, or mausoleum entombment, a natural burial provides a more affordable and environmentally conscious option.

Have you considered a natural ground burial?

Natural ground burial is the practice of burying the body of the deceased without the use of embalming chemicals and without caskets and vaults made from concrete, steel, plastic and endangered tropical wood that are often used in a standard burial.

A natural ground burial includes a casket made of inexpensive and biodegradable material such as untreated wood, plywood, wicker, or in some cases a cloth shroud or quilt that is used to wrap the body. The shallow grave burial encourages decomposition and revitalizes the surrounding ecosystem.

While a standard gravesite is often landscaped with the use of fertilizers and pesticides and usually features a headstone made of granite or a flat bronze memorial, a natural burial can include a headstone made of rock or rough-cut limestone. Perennial plants, shrubs and trees native to the forests from the local region can be planted in one's memory. These plants grow to become beautiful gardens and forests that provide essential green space for future generations. Some cemeteries offer tree purchasing and planting services, or you may wish to choose a plant that is unique to you and arrange that it is planted by your family and friends.

**If the body is going to be buried in Ontario, it must be buried in a registered cemetery. Check ahead with your local cemetery's by-laws for their specific burial requirements.*

For more information about natural burials in Canada, please contact:

The Natural Burial Association

Email: info@naturalburialassoc.ca

Phone: 416.360.0044 ext.367

The Natural Burial Association

70 The Esplanade, Suite 400 Toronto, ON

M5E 1R2

Cremation

If your preference is to be cremated, have you considered where you would like your ashes spread, by whom and whether there is a particular time and date you would prefer? Do you have a certain ritual in mind, such as a poem read or song sung during the spreading of your ashes?

There are laws stating where you are legally entitled to spread a person's ashes and where you are not allowed. Consult the *Government of Ontario website*

www.ontario.ca/page/arrange-funeral-burial-cremation-or-scattering

or *Consumer Information Guide - A Guide to Death Care in Ontario* (<https://thebao.ca/for-consumers/consumer-information-guide/>) published by *Bereavement Authority of Ontario* for more information.

Cemetery Arrangements		
I have pre-arranged my burial: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	My burial costs are prepaid: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	My Information is stored:
Name, Address, Website and Contact Information for Chosen Cemetery:		
I have chosen a tombstone: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	I have written my tombstone epitaph: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, it is: <input type="checkbox"/> No	
If yes, please provide info:		
Other information about your burial or cremation not already covered:		