

Obituary Writing Guide

An obituary can be as basic as containing only public facts about a person's life such as their birth date, family tree, and death date. It also may be a very personal look at one's life. Not only can it be a summation of the public facts but a glimpse of the uniqueness that, when combined with those facts, creates a personality. Typically written by a loved one, an obituary becomes an intimate view of what made that individual memorable to others.

1st Paragraph: Name, Age, City of Residence, Date of Death. Date and Place of Birth, and Name of Parents. Marriage Information - If spouse has already died, include "preceded in death."

Example – John Albert Doe, 88, of Provo, passed away Friday, January 15, 2018. He was born December 14, 1927, in Provo, Utah, to James Allen Doe and Sarah Jane Smith Doe. He married Julie Ann Jones on February 14, 1953, in the Provo LDS Temple. She preceded him in death on May 31, 2007.

2nd Paragraph: Interests, Education, Military Service (War or Conflict and Where Stationed), Hobbies, Clubs, Work History, Accomplishments, Church Service, etc.

Example – John served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and camping. He was a member of the Kiwanis Club and Sons of the Utah Pioneers. He was an excellent father and grandfather and he loved his children and grandchildren dearly. He was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and served as a home teacher, bishop, and high priest.

3rd Paragraph: Survivors names with city and state of residences and those preceding in death.

Example – John is survived by his three children: Mary (Bob) Johnson of Lindon, Utah; James (Beth) Doe of Kansas City, Missouri; Jeff (Susan) Doe of Pleasant Grove, Utah; 12 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife and two brothers Bill and Ted Doe.

4th Paragraph: Funeral or memorial service, place of burial (military rites if applicable), and visitation information – date, time, place, name, and funeral home. Thank you and memorial giving (typically done at the very end of the obituary after the service information).

Example – Funeral services will be held Friday, January 22, 2018, at 11 a.m. in the Springville 1st Ward Chapel located at 245 South 600 East, Springville, Utah. A viewing for friends and family will be held Thursday evening from 6 to 8 p.m. at Wheeler Mortuary located at 211 East 200 South in Springville, and on Friday just prior to the service from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the church. Burial will be in the Springville Evergreen Cemetery with military rites by the American Legion. In lieu of flow-ers, please donate to the Such-and-Such Cancer Fund.



211 East 200 South, Springville, Utah 84663
(801) 489 6021 ♦ www.wheelermortuary.com