

# Funeral Planning Checklist

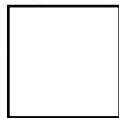
Important Decisions and Next Steps



# What to do first?

You might think the only funeral planning choice you need to make while you're alive is the choice between "burial or cremation." Your final disposition is certainly an important decision, but there are many other memorial options for you to consider.

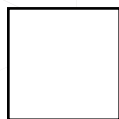
**Let's get that first task out of the way, though:**



**Decide on final disposition.**

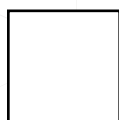
Choose between cremation, burial, or other alternatives.

**Also important is figuring out who will be responsible for taking care of you when you pass away:**



**Choose a funeral home.**

Keeping your plans on file with a funeral home is a great way to secure your final wishes. Just be sure to notify your family when you've selected the funeral home you'll use for your services.



**Select a final resting place.**

This may include a cemetery plot, a vault, mausoleum, columbarium, or a place to scatter the ashes.

## Now, let's think about a memorial service or end-of-life celebration.

No matter the size of the gathering, it's important that the event honors your life while also considering the needs of the folks attending: your family, their circle of support, and all of the people who love you.

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### **Decide on the type of the ceremony.**

Some people want a formal or religious ceremony. Others may prefer a more casual gathering. A military funeral may also be an option for eligible veterans. When you've selected the funeral home you'll use for your services.

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### **Choose the appropriate services.**

You can select a casket or urn depending on your disposition type. Will there be flowers? Will your family gather inside a church or outdoors on a patio?

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### **Decide on the order of events for the service.**

Some key events may include a viewing of the body, the main ceremony, the eulogy, a procession to the final resting place, and a gathering after the services.

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### **Identify who will speak at the funeral.**

Most funerals have someone delivering a eulogy. You may also want people to recite poems, scripture verses, quotes from books, or specific prayers. Decide on who should speak and invite them to participate.

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### **Pick who else will be involved with the funeral.**

For a burial, you may need pallbearers. You should also select someone to be in charge on the day of the funeral, which will take the stress off your loved ones. This could be the funeral director or another trusted person.

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### **Prepare funeral announcements.**

Help your loved ones by creating most of your obituary ahead of time. Include key details about your life. Share this with your family.

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### **Continue to update your plans.**

As your tastes or the culture changes, you may want to make changes to your final wishes. Work with your selected funeral home to make sure these changes are recorded and respected.

# Need some help getting started?

This checklist does NOT cover all of the decisions and pieces of information your family will be responsible for when you pass away. But thinking about these things for your family will go a long way toward building a celebration that you deserve, and that your loved ones will need.

If you need help weighing some of these decisions, we invite you to schedule a no-obligation advisement with an advance planning professional. Here's what to do next:

## Meet with an Advance Funeral Planner

[Schedule a free consultation](#) with a professional advance funeral planner who will review all the options available and help you check off as many boxes as possible.

## Complete a Memorial Guide and Cost Estimate

We offer every family a comprehensive advance planning portfolio called a **Final Wishes Organizer®**. It contains a memorial guide that details all of the information needed to fulfill your funeral and memorial plan.

## Share Your Wishes with Family and Friends

The final step is to share the Final Wishes Organizer with your family or friends. This is to provide assurance that the urgent tasks and decisions, which would otherwise burden them later, have been completed.

[REQUEST AN APPOINTMENT](#)