

Decisions for Arranging a Funeral

When someone dies there will be numerous practical and celebratory decisions to be made prior to conducting a meaningful service for your loved one. Before arranging the first interview session with your chosen funeral director, it will be both helpful and less time consuming, if you and your family have already discussed and agreed upon the various questions that will be asked of you by the funeral director.

Funeral Service Questions & Decisions:

QUESTIONS	DECISIONS
<p>Have you documented all of the personal details of the deceased? <i>Download our Checklist ('Personal Information of the Deceased'), and fill this out.</i></p>	
<p>Have you located the personal records and documents of the deceased? <i>Download our Checklist ('Personal Documents of the Deceased'), and fill this out.</i></p>	
<p>Who is to sign the legal 'contract' for services with the funeral director? <i>This person is liable for the costs incurred with the funeral director and does not necessarily have to be the appointed 'Executor', if there is one.</i></p>	

QUESTIONS	DECISIONS
<p>Is a religious or non-religious service to be arranged?</p>	
<p>Will there be a 'funeral' service or a 'memorial' service? <i>A funeral service is conducted with the 'deceased' being present. A memorial service is conducted without the presence of the 'deceased'.</i></p>	
<p>Will there be a burial or cremation? Where? <i>Type / Location</i></p>	
<p>Will the service be held in a church, chapel or favourite location? <i>Location</i></p>	
<p>Do you have a preferred date and time? <i>Date / Time of Service</i></p>	
<p>Who will lead the service? <i>A member of the family or friend, clergy or celebrant</i></p>	

QUESTIONS	DECISIONS
<p>Will there be a 'viewing' of the deceased and who should attend? <i>Where / When / Who</i></p>	
<p>What type of casket or coffin?</p>	
<p>Do you want pallbearers? Who will they be?</p>	
<p>Do you wish to choose your own florist, or use the funeral directors?</p>	
<p>Wording & placement of any press notices, and / or online memorial tributes?</p>	
<p>Who will prepare and deliver a eulogy?</p>	

QUESTIONS	DECISIONS
<p>What hymns, readings or poems are required? <i>See our checklists for suggestions.</i></p>	
<p>Do you wish to have live music or CD's? <i>e.g. Will a harpist, bagpiper or soloist be required or will CD's be used.</i></p>	
<p>What will be the seating arrangements at the service? <i>e.g. Do you want 'reserved' signs on seating.</i></p>	
<p>Are mourning cars required? <i>e.g. limousines or sedans</i></p>	
<p>Are service booklets required?</p>	
<p>Is the service to be video recorded?</p>	

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<p>What, if any, special arrangements are required to further personalise the service?</p> <p><i>e.g. PowerPoint slide presentation; photos/memorabilia on the coffin; release of balloons, doves, butterflies; service club guard of honour, photo collage board.</i></p>	
<p>Do key family members wish to purchase/hire outfits for the day?</p>	
<p>How are key family members getting to the service on the day?</p> <p><i>Taxis / Hire Cars required</i></p>	
<p>Will an after-service function (wake) be arranged?</p> <p><i>Location / Time / Venue Hire? / Catering</i></p>	