

Press Notices

Your Funeral Director can assist in the wording of a press notice, in the paper of your choice.

As well as notifying the name of the deceased person, it usually includes the date they passed away, family connections and the date time and location of the service. Often included are any requests for flowers or donations and occasionally an open invite for people to attend a reception or 'Wake' after the service.

Music

Most churches and all the crematorium chapels have sound systems.

These can be used free of charge to play your own CD's. We, the funeral director, can also provide music on request from our large collection .

The crematorium chapels do have electronic organs and are available should the family wish to have an organist to play music/hymns during the service. There is no resident organist at the crematorium chapels and one has to be 'employed' for the service duration, usually by the funeral director and included on their disbursements

Order of Service

It is often the choice of the family to have an order of service prepared. This can contain all the essential elements of the service, hymns, music, poems, readings and also carry information of donations/charities and the venue for any reception following the service along with directions if felt necessary. The front page may also have a photograph , an emblem or be very simple . Each order of service is unique and is tailored to your exact requirement, and are professionally printed on quality card by the Funeral Directors printers. They are a nice keepsake for those attending the service to take away with them.

The Funeral Reception or Wake

Following the funeral service families may wish to organise a funeral reception or "Wake". There is a choice between the more formal environment of a hotel and that of a local pub.

There are also companies that can provide catering in a private residence, ask the funeral director for more information.

The choice of Coffin and Clothing

There is much choice when selecting a coffin. Coffins can be made from solid wood, veneered materials, natural woven products, for example willow and seagrass and even wool. Coffins can now even include a theme and the whole coffin can include a picture or be made to resemble an object or scene. Ask the funeral director to show you the options if you wish.

If you wish, the deceased may be dressed in their own clothes , there are no restrictions for burial but for cremation no footwear can be worn nor any metal objects placed in the coffin. For cremation , it is preferable for clothing to be made from natural fabrics.

Jewellery.

It is sometimes requested that jewellery be left on the deceased for burial or cremation. It is important to realise that , in the case of cremation, there will be nothing recoverable from the cremated remains due to the high temperatures involved. It is recommended that, if in any doubt, ask the funeral director to return jewellery to the family.

Cremated Remains

Cremated remains cannot be left indefinitely at the crematorium or funeral directors. The decision of what to do with the deceased's ashes can be hard to make and may take some time. With the relatives/executors permission , cremated remains can be collected from the crematorium by the funeral director who can then help organise for them to be placed in a cemetery, be strewn at the crematorium or returned to a family.

There are places to place cremated remains in most cemeteries, ask the funeral director to explain the options available and the costs involved.

Ashes can even be made into pieces of jewellery, ask the funeral director for more information.

There is a wide choice of urn's available for those who wish something unique to keep their loved ones ashes in, please ask to funeral director for more information.

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Guide to planning a Funeral Service



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This brief guide is intended to sow some “seeds of thought” in the planning of a funeral ceremony. The options and decisions are many so the following gives some information to assist with your decision making process. It is assumed that the formalities of registration have been put in place or, if the coroner is involved, a time scale for the funeral has been considered.

Before meeting the funeral director it is useful to give the following some consideration:-

Burial or Cremation

This is a fundamental decision that has to be made soon after the person passes on, it may already be a request in the persons will or already agreed upon by the family. It is also a decision that affects the documentation required by the funeral director.

Burial

Burial costs are, in general, more than cremation. Burials can be carried out in new graves in council cemeteries and church cemeteries and in existing family plots if there is space. Bear in mind the cost of a headstone and the implications of maintenance in years to come. Also consider that you may require the permission of the deed holder of the grave to carry out the burial. In some cases, if the deed holder is deceased, the deed may have to be transferred into the name of someone alive today and who will accept responsibility for any upkeep of the grave in forthcoming years.

Depending on the location of the cemetery dictates whether a service can be held at the same location or at a church or other chapel, the funeral director will advise.

Cremation

There are two local crematoriums, Chanterlands in Hull and Haltemprice at Willerby. Chanterlands crematorium has two chapels, the small chapel which comfortably seats 50 people and the large chapel which has a gallery and seats in excess of 250 people. Haltemprice crematorium was once an old church which belonged to De La Pole Hospital, the building retains many of the original features of the church; oak pews, stained glass window and its vaulted roof structure. Haltemprice seats 200 people with standing room for many more.

Neither Chanterlands or Haltemprice have a resident minister so it is the choice of the family who is to lead the service, usually chosen with the assistance of the funeral director.

The Funeral Ceremony

When can the funeral be carried out ?

This depends on various parameters. In general, if the registration has been carried out and the Green Certificate from the registrars obtained or a Cremation / Burial order obtained from the Coroner then plans can be put into place. It is usual to plan at least a week in advance to allow documentation to be processed, to allow those attending the funeral to prepare and it may also depend on the availability of the Church, Cemetery, Crematorium, Minister/Celebrant and of course the funeral directors commitments.

If the funeral takes place in a church then most have their own Minister who will liaise with the family and organise the service. Most churches now have sound systems and hearing loops for those with hearing aids and of course most have an organ to play hymns.

How long is the funeral service?

This of course depends on the content of the service, whether there is music to be played, personal tributes etc. At the crematorium chapels the time allowed for a single funeral time period is 1 hour, this includes the time to enter the chapel and everyone attending to be in place before the service begins and, more importantly, for everyone attending the service to vacate the chapel.

It can easily take 20 minutes for a large congregation to leave the chapels as they may wish to greet the family as they leave. Out of consideration to those attending the following funeral service this should be respected.

This is not to say that additional time cannot be accommodated, additional time “slots” can be booked to follow the service but obviously this does accrue addition cost.

Who will carry or bear the coffin ?

The funeral directors will provide trained bearers to carry the coffin. As with all businesses, the funeral director has an obligation to take care of and protect his staff from injury. If a coffin is assessed to be unsuitable to be manually carried the Funeral Director may use a wheeled bier to assist with moving the coffin. Sometimes family members wish to carry the coffin, this is quite acceptable, subject to the above, and the Funeral Director and staff will offer advice and assistance where required.

Who will conduct the service ?

It is the choice of the family whether a service is conducted by a Minister of Religion or, as is becoming increasingly popular, a Celebrant or Humanist. The humanist services are based on the life of the deceased, often including music and poetry chosen by the family or with the assistance of the Celebrant and may include some religious content if requested. The funeral director will discuss all the options with you.

If a family member wishes to take part in the ceremony this is quite acceptable and can be discussed at the time when making arrangements or talking to the Minister or Celebrant

The Cortege.

Traditionally, funerals left from the deceased persons dwelling with a hearse to carry the coffin and following funeral limousines to take the mourners. Nowadays it is often the choice of the family to either leave from the funeral directors premises, with or without following limousines, or to meet the hearse at the crematorium, church or cemetery. The choice is entirely that of the family and can be discussed further with the funeral director.

Most funeral limousines can carry up to seven mourners. As well as traditional funeral vehicles, horse drawn hearses are available to carry the coffin, these beautiful carriages are normally pulled by two black horses adorned with black plumes and attended by professional grooms. Ask the funeral director for more information.

Flowers and Donations

It is often the family's choice to have flowers just from the immediate family at the funeral and to give those attending the service an opportunity to give a charitable donation in memory of their loved one. Donations are returned to the family, they can then Gift Aid them to the relevant charity and obtain the Tax Relief. The Funeral Director will provide a secure receptacle at the crematorium and a notice to advise of the relevant charity. Collections in Churches are subject to each individual churches rules.

The Funeral director can order flowers for the family or put you in touch with their florist, if the family prefer they can organise floral tributes themselves.