

# Funeral Planning Checklist

To plan your funeral, we suggest you consider the following actions:

*Choose the type of service(s), event(s), or other preferences you want to include:*

| Funeral service, followed by burial or cremation

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| Graveside service or a service at the crematory, followed by burial or cremation

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| Memorial service after burial or cremation

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| Home funeral service and/or burial

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| "Green" or non-traditional funeral service

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| Anatomical gift or donation

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*Decide if you would like other funeral events to be held, such as:*

| Viewing or visitation before my funeral

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| Reception, wake, or gathering after my funeral or memorial

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| Observe my religion's mourning events or ceremonies

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*Identify personal options you may want to include:*

- | Funeral or memorial service location choice; include a second choice

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- | Person to officiate at funeral or memorial service; include second choice

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- | Pallbearers, speakers, assistants, and attendees

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- | Prayers, poems, or other readings

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- | Songs, hymns, or type of music to be played

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- | Physical or virtual memorials, like a marker, headstone, or website tribute

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- | Memorial donations to one or more specific charity organizations

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- | Notifications to specific groups, organizations, or clubs, including veterans groups, alumni associations, or sports or hobby clubs

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- | Notifications or invitations to specific people to attend my funeral or memorial service

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*Choose your final resting place options:*

- | Burial in a preferred cemetery, private property, or other location

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- | Scattering of ashes in preferred location, like at sea, on private property, or in a memorial garden

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Nontraditional preferences like transforming remains into keepsakes or making an anatomical gift or donation

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Decide if pre-funding your funeral with funeral insurance, a funeral trust, or private funding resources is right for you and your family.

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Create your funeral plan by writing your final wishes into your will, stating your wishes into a voice or video recording, contacting a funeral service provider to assist you, or using a funeral planning guide to create the plan yourself. However you choose to create your funeral plan, be sure to communicate your final wishes to your loved ones, or a funeral provider, if applicable, so your wishes will be carried out after you pass away. Often, funeral decisions are made before a will can be located and implemented.

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Collect marriage and birth certificates, military or other service records, life and health insurance policies, social security information, creditors and other documents.

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Prepare biographical information for your obituary.

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Inform your loved ones and/or funeral service provider of your final wishes, and share the location of your funeral plan and other important documents with close family and applicable service providers.

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