



What to Expect Before, During and After a Funeral

Whether it's your first time making arrangements for a loved one who has passed or your first time attending services for a family member or friend, it's helpful to have an understanding of what takes place before, during and after a funeral or memorial service.

To help you and your family prepare, we provide an overview of what typically happens before, during and after a funeral.

Before the Funeral

It's a common enough experience; a loved one dies and now you've got to face something you've never ever done before. You've got to go to a funeral home to make their funeral arrangements. Now, not only are you emotionally

affected by their death, you're anxious and really need to know what to expect when you arrive. So, let's talk about that for a bit.

We've streamlined the funeral arrangement process. Since we've been making funeral arrangements with families for a very long time, we've had ample opportunity to learn the easiest, most efficient way to get through the process. Believe us when we say; it won't take as long as you think.

Planning for the Funeral Event

When it comes to properly completing death paperwork, and writing a detailed obituary, accuracy is everything. So, when it comes to the first task, that of sharing your loved one's biographical details, you'll want to bring as much documentation of the following as possible:

- The deceased's full name
- Their Social Security number
- Parent's names Spouse and children's names
- Maiden name of mother
- Marital status
- Educational history
- History of military service
- Work history
- Hobbies and interests
- Church affiliation
- A list of organizational and club memberships
- A recent photograph

Naturally, if you're unable to bring any of this information, you can always call us later to share whatever is missing.

The second step in the funeral arrangement conference, that of planning a meaningful ceremony to pay tribute and celebrate the life of your loved one is really at the heart of what you'll be doing that day. In order to facilitate things, we ask that you bring:

- Pre-arrangement papers, if applicable
- Clothes in which to bury or cremate your loved one
- Cemetery property information, if applicable
- A list of preferred charities for memorial donations, if applicable
- A list of pallbearers, if applicable
- Desired musical and readings selections

There are really two more things to bring: your memories, and your heart-driven creative thinking. After all, we will be guided in planning your loved one's funeral, memorial service, or celebration-of-life by your stories, personal perceptions, and insights into their character and lifestyle.

In the End

Our time together will take only as long as you need it to take. Not only that, while the time you spend with us in your first visit can be very intense and emotionally-draining; you'll be among people who really care about your welfare. We'll support you throughout the funeral arrangement process, in any way you need us to; and we believe you'll find that when you leave, you've really had very little to be anxious about. But if you still have any questions or concerns, call us today at to learn more about what to expect when you come to our funeral home.

During the Funeral

If you had any part in arranging services for your loved one, it's likely you know what to expect during the funeral, including what songs and readings are being shared, as well as instructions on when to sit or stand.

However, there's no telling how you will feel once the service starts. Remember, it's okay to be upset. You have just lost a very important person in your life. Funerals are emotionally charged events, so lean on your close family members and friends to offer you comfort during this time.

The funeral home will also be available to offer you support during the funeral. When you arrive, a funeral director will be onsite to instruct you on where to gather. They will reserve the first few rows for your family to sit together. Additionally, they will introduce themselves to all participant speakers and the pallbearers who are in charge of carrying the **casket**.

After the Funeral

After the funeral service takes place, you and your family will need to determine a timeline to get your loved one's affairs in order. You'll want to contact financial institutions and government agencies about your loved one's death.

As you sort through financial and legal paperwork, make sure to file important documents like credit reports, brokerage statements, property titles and more. Additionally, you'll want to close out digital assets like online accounts and social profiles.

Once these items are out of the way, you can focus on other areas like **personal belongings**. While it may be tempting to sort through your loved one's belongings in a few days, it's important to take your time with this step. Enlisting the help of family members and friends can simplify this process to ensure you aren't taking on more than you can handle.

Understand that there's no linear path to grief. The stages of grief are often unpredictable, and some days may feel better or worse than others. Following the funeral, **memorialization** can provide comfort and closure for the bereaved. Consider planting a tree, flower or garden in your loved one's honor, or making a donation to a local charity in his or her name. All of these activities can help you celebrate the life and legacy of your loved one.

Receive Expert Guidance Throughout Your Grief Journey

In the days, weeks and months following a loss, it's important to remember the grieving process has no set timeline. To help guide you through your grief journey, we encourage you to contact us to discuss your needs and concerns.

