

A GUIDE TO PLANNING YOUR FUNERAL WISHES AHEAD OF TIME

Thoughtful steps to bring clarity, peace, and ease for your loved ones

1. Reflect on the kind of farewell that feels right for you

Take time to consider what feels true to your personality and beliefs.

- A traditional funeral
- A celebration of life
- A memorial service
- A private family gathering
- A faith-based ceremony

There's no wrong choice—only what feels meaningful to you.

2. Decide whether you prefer burial, cremation, or another option.

This single decision provides enormous clarity for loved ones. If you have cultural, spiritual, or environmental preferences, note them here.

3. Think about the tone and atmosphere you'd like.

Do you imagine something peaceful and quiet? Joyful and story-filled? Outdoors? At your place of worship? Naming your preferences helps your family shape something that truly reflects you.

4. Choose readings, music, or rituals that matter to you.

You can note:

- A favorite poem, scripture, or quote
- Songs that carry meaning
- Rituals or traditions you want included
- Someone you'd like to speak or share memories

These elements become anchors of comfort for everyone involved.

5. Identify who you'd like involved in key roles.

List the people you trust to handle different parts:

- Who should make final decisions?
- Who should lead the service (pastor, officiant, friend)?
- Who should be notified first?

Clarity brings peace and prevents family stress during tender moments.

6. Note any personal touches that feel important.

This can be as simple or specific as you wish—

- Photos to display
- Charities for memorial donations
- A color scheme or theme
- Items you'd like placed nearby

These small details often become deeply meaningful for loved ones

7. Document essential information.

Keep things practical but manageable:

- Legal documents
- Emergency contacts
- Passwords or digital instructions (if desired)
- Insurance information
- Preferred funeral home or service provider

Store everything in one accessible, organized place.

8. Share your wishes with at least one trusted person.

The plan only helps if someone knows it exists. Share your preferences with family or a designated decision-maker and let them know where documents are stored.

9. Revisit and update your wishes as life changes.

Your preferences may evolve. A quick review every couple of years keeps everything aligned with your current values and circumstances.

10. Remember: this is a gift of clarity and comfort.

Planning ahead doesn't diminish the life you're living, it strengthens your connection to the people who love you. It gives them direction during a difficult moment and ensures your story is honored with intention and care.

