

# How I would like my funeral to be



*These are some of the areas that you could consider. Please don't feel that you have to decide everything, just what matters to you. It can be very helpful to know someone's wishes, but families (and friends) may also like to express their love creatively (you could also look at this together).*

Who I have asked / would like to be involved in arranging my funeral:	
My choice of Funeral Director:	
Whether or not I have a pre-payment plan, (and if so, where it is located):	
I wish to be cremated / buried (and where any plot certificate is):	
My preference over where my ashes go (if choosing cremation):	
I wish the funeral to be held at:	
Who I would like to conduct the service and whether they know this:	
The sort of service that I would like: how simple / relaxed / formal? how religious / non-religious?	
The music I would like to be included:	
My wishes about hymns and songs: how many (or none)? which ones?	
My choice of readings: (e.g. from the Bible or secular poetry)	
My thoughts regarding: eulogies and other contributions? flowers / donations to charity? dress code? choice of coffin?	
Other wishes that I have:	

Signed

Date

Copy in patient notes?

# Other thoughts and suggestions to consider

## The Eulogy

It is quite normal (but not expected) these days for a relative or friend to say something in the service.

It may help to write it down, to avoid forgetting what was to be said.

Also, the minister or someone else could read it out on their behalf if wished.

Instead of a formal eulogy, some people have written a letter to read out, or used a poem.

## Photographs

It's quite normal to have a photograph on the front of the service card.

Less often, but very helpfully, you could put a short biography on the back of the service card.

Some families have put together a collection of photographs on a board for everyone to look at.

## The Venue

Time is limited at the crematorium. Inverness allows a maximum of 30 minutes; other places give even less.

Please do bear this in mind, if holding the whole service there. Hymns, music and eulogies can take up a surprising amount of time.

Holding most of the service elsewhere can help unless a very simple service is what is wanted.

If you don't want a 'church' service, most funeral directors have a chapel available.

Also consider this, for example, if you want to use your own musician or you plan to project photographs.

## Music

There may be hymns or pieces of music that have great personal meaning.

Otherwise when singing, it helps to choose material that is well-known and / or easy to sing.

## Emotions

Not surprisingly, most funerals are an emotional time. There is nothing wrong with crying because you miss someone, nor is there about smiling or even laughing because you remember something good. Both are quite normal and appropriate.

## Children

Until the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century it was normal for children of all ages to attend funerals. For some reason attitudes changed quite rapidly, and it became normal to protect children from possible distress. More recently, this has begun to be questioned, as not going to the funeral doesn't take away the loss.

It remains the parents' decision, of course, but funerals are family events, and not including children in them doesn't reduce their sense of loss, while it can make it harder for them to say goodbye.

## Where to keep this information

We hope this won't be needed for some time yet, and it needs to be kept safe. The person who will arrange the funeral should either have it, or know where it is. We can keep a copy in your patient notes, if you wish, as a safeguard. But if you work through this at home or on your own, please don't forget to let us make a copy!

Please note that this document has no legal status, but in most cases families want to respect your wishes.

Please also note that you can change anything at any time; but, don't forget to tell everyone who needs to know.