

Funeral Director will discuss with you and your family the arrangements for the funeral, this will include all aspects and their related costs from the choice burial or cremation, choice of coffin, personal care, flowers, cars, newspaper announcements, music, etc. Unless you have already done so the funeral director will also contact your chosen celebrant, they will arrange a separate appointment with you to discuss the requirements.

A funeral may take place at any time after the bereavement and can be organised by anyone close to the deceased. They may have left specific instructions or made an expression of wishes about the type of funeral that they wanted or whether they wanted to be buried or cremated, although there is no legal obligation for relatives to follow these, if this is the case please discuss this with your chosen funeral director. You may be arranging a funeral while coping with grief and feeling like you must act quickly, and usually with little or no recent experience. Some people have strong ideas about what a funeral should be like and what a 'good send-off' should be, however, it's worth considering the following points:

- Choose a funeral that is affordable and is right for the person who has died. It's unlikely that the person who has died would want you to get yourself into debt to pay for the funeral fees or stressed about the finances. It's not wrong or disrespectful to give thought to funeral costs.
- Try to get at least two quotes, perhaps one from an independent funeral director and one from a chain, remember they are a business and their fees can be the most expensive part of a funeral.
- More expensive options don't make a better funeral. As well as the type of funeral and which funeral director you may use, optional extras affect the cost. Words, music and actions can be more meaningful than expensive cars and coffins.

Burial - these may take place in a churchyard, local authority or private cemetery as required. Burials can also take place on private land or other sites approved by the local authority. Most cemeteries are owned by the local authority and are non-denominational, although some have separate spaces available for particular religious groups.

Cremation - no-one can be cremated until a cause of death is certain and the death has been registered. If you would like your loved one to be cremated then 5 forms must be completed before this can go ahead, these will be organised by the Funeral Director:

- Application Form - signed by next of kin or executor
- 2x Cremation Certificates - each signed by a different doctor (these are to be paid for unless referred to a coroner - currently £82 each)
- Medical Referee Certificate - completed at the crematorium
- Certificate for Burial or Cremation - issued by the registrar

You will also be asked what you would like done with the ashes of your loved one after a cremation, they may be buried in a churchyard/cemetery, scattered in the Garden of