

An aerial photograph of a dense forest, viewed from directly above. The canopy is a thick, textured layer of green. A single, light-colored tree trunk is visible, running vertically from the top center towards the bottom of the frame, creating a clear path through the dense foliage.

Guide to
**Funeral
Preplanning**

Altogether™

Plan Ahead for Peace of Mind

If you are considering planning your funeral arrangements ahead of time, you are not alone.

Planning your funeral is an act of love that protects your family and will be remembered by those you leave behind long after you are gone. It is also a wonderful way to affirm your personal decisions about how you would like to be taken care of and remembered after you go.

Find comfort knowing you have time to explore your options. Many families we have worked with have even found it to be an enjoyable experience that has given them space to reflect on their lives and how they would like to share their joys and experiences with their families even after they are gone.

We are here to guide you as you begin to explore your options.

Funeral Fact

Wives make **70%** of the final arrangements, compared to **30%** of husbands.

Benefits of Making Funeral Arrangements in Advance

More than 85% of children want their parents to plan in advance.

We are constantly planning ahead in our lives to protect our families and make sure we are making the most of each experience – from purchasing home insurance, saving for our retirement, planning vacations, and setting aside money for our children's education, we are always thinking about the future. But many of us aren't prepared for the inevitable: our own passing. When you begin the process of planning ahead, it is helpful to connect with why it is important to you. There are numerous benefits to arranging your funeral services ahead of time, and many will be personal to you.

Ease the financial burden on your family

During a time of loss, unexpected funeral costs can be a huge financial burden for many. Grieving families are also more likely to overspend on funeral arrangements.

Bring your loved ones comfort

Instead of guessing what is important to you and planning while grieving, your family can truly celebrate your life and find comfort knowing every decision was what you wanted. Arranging your funeral in advance is a wonderful gift to leave your family.

Choose how you would like to be remembered

When planning your funeral in advance, you are in control of every decision. Choose how much you'd like to spend and what is important to you. When the time comes, you can have peace of mind knowing your final wishes will be understood and fulfilled.

Questions to Consider When Planning Ahead

While many people know they want to plan ahead, they feel intimidated by the process and delay arranging their funeral out of fear. Before getting overwhelmed, take a step back and consider which parts of the process are most important to you. Take control of the process and make it your own.

"I want everyone to celebrate my life, not be sad that I'm gone. They will serve my favorite drinks, have an open mic for my friends to tell stories and jokes, and bring together all of the people I love."

—Alex from Florida

The questions below are a jumping off point for you as you begin your journey:

- What details of your funeral are important to you?
- Do you have any family photos or videos you would like shared at your funeral?
- What do you want to happen to your body after your passing?
- Where would you like your celebration of life to take place?
- What kind of mood do you want at your funeral?
- Would you like a permanent memorial for your family to visit?
- Are there any stories you would like shared at your funeral?
- Are there any important stories or family history that you would like to pass on before you go?

How Would You like to Be Remembered?

When you plan your arrangements in advance, every decision is yours.

Enjoy the process and consider how you would like to be remembered! Here is some inspiration we've gathered from families who have preplanned their arrangements:

"At my funeral, I want my family to read the same scriptures and hymns that we chose for our wedding."

—Paula from Minnesota

"When I go, I just want to make sure I have a good view. I've already picked out my burial plot. I'll spend forever on a hill facing a beautiful lake. I've even secured a spot next to me for my wife when it's her time to go."

—Bryan from Tennessee

"I once saw a movie where they held the funeral before she died. I love that idea! I would never miss a chance to celebrate, so I'm planning a living memorial service where I can get together and celebrate my life with my family and friends before I go!"

—Beatrice from California

"I have made an effort to minimize my environmental impact throughout my life and wanted to make sure I did the same in my death. I'm exploring cremation and burial options that minimize my carbon footprint, so I can feel good about what I'm leaving behind."

—Sarah from Oregon

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