

My Funeral Arrangements

Guidance on: My Funeral Preferences

Leaving notes about how you want your funeral to be conducted can be of great help and comfort to people bereaved. If you would like to make your wishes about your funeral known to your friends, family and the Church, the form below may be used. You might also use the form to stimulate a discussion with your next of kin / to share important features of your funeral.

A copy of this form will be held confidentially by the Church Secretary and yourself. Please ensure your next of kin / executor knows where to find it or has a copy themselves.

It can be difficult to know how much detail to put into this sort of form. You can give guidance to those who will organise your funeral, but may wish to allow some flexibility.

Sometimes it might be difficult for your next of kin to carry out every one of your wishes. It would be helpful if you indicate which details are of great importance and which simply offer a preference. Feel free to write 'don't know' or 'don't mind' in reply to questions. If there are some details you wish to remain confidential, please indicate where, in due course, we can obtain the relevant information, should it be needed.

You can always add extra comments or requests on a separate piece of paper.

Useful references and resources

The City of Edinburgh Council - Bereavement Services

Includes: what to do after a death in Scotland. Registering a death. Mortonhall, Seafield and Warriston Crematoria, cemeteries and woodlands for burials in the area.

Go to www.edinburgh.gov.uk/directory/40/cemeteries_and_crematoria

Similar information is available on the websites of the other councils in South East Scotland. Look under 'funerals', 'bereavement services', 'burial grounds' or 'cemeteries'.

The Natural Death Centre

The Natural Death Centre is a charitable organisation that acts as a funeral watchdog on behalf of the consumer. It also provides a wide range of resource information on arranging funerals, including woodland burials and do-it-yourself funerals. See:

www.naturaldeath.org.uk/ (links to “bookshop”, “resources” and lists of “natural burial grounds – two in Scotland” – both members and non-members of the charity are listed).

Funeral services, crematoria etc. in Edinburgh (and elsewhere)

A list of funeral directors is available from the on-line Yellow Pages and in the paper editions. Although the list is long, it may be incomplete if businesses don't pay to have an entry. See: www.yell.com/ - enter “Funeral Directors” and “Edinburgh” (or as appropriate) into the search boxes.

Pre-paying funerals

Websites and publications above have some information on this, but Age UK (formerly known as Age Concern) has a guaranteed funeral plan, which gives an outline of what such plans cost and how they operate. Most funeral directors will arrange a pre-paid plan.

www.ageuk.org.uk/scotland/search1/?keyword=funeral+plans&nation=ageuk_en-GB-SC Phone 0800 4 70 80 90 or call into a local Age Scotland office.

Form 1: My Funeral Preferences

Your name	
Please give other name(s) you have used (e.g. birth name)	
Gender	
By which name and gender would like to be referred to in your funeral?	
Address including postcode	
Telephone number	
Mobile number	
Name of your Local Church	
Who is your next of kin? Please include: Name Address Phone Number Email	
Who do you wish to take responsibility for making your funeral arrangements? Please include: Name Address Phone Number Email	

<p>Who do you wish to notify the Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths? Please include: Name Address Phone Number Email</p>	
<p>Are your family / friends aware of your wishes in this respect?</p>	
<p>Do you wish for your funeral to broadly follow the tradition of a URC funeral?</p>	
<p>Do you know which undertaker you would wish to handle arrangements? If 'yes', please give details.</p>	
<p>Have you made arrangements, financial or otherwise, with your chosen undertaker? If 'yes', please give details.</p>	
<p>Do you wish to be buried or cremated?</p>	
<p>Where do you wish your funeral to take place?</p>	

<p>What kind of coffin would you like? There are many choices: a simple casket of wood, MDF, cardboard, wicker etc.</p>	
<p>Where do you want to be buried? OR Where, how and by whom do you want your ashes to be cared for?</p>	
<p>Would you like recorded music to be played before, after or during the service? If "yes" please specify which pieces and when they are to be used?</p>	
<p>What are your funeral hymn choices (usually 2)?</p>	
<p>What are your choices for readings (usually 2)?</p>	
<p>Do you wish any one (apart from the minister) to read the readings?</p>	
<p>Do you wish to have a eulogy?</p>	

<p>Who do you wish to offer your eulogy?</p>	
<p>Eulogy: If you wish to have a eulogy it is useful to have an outline of your life on which to build it. Could you please supply this in the space at the end of this document.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DOB</i> • <i>Where you were born</i> • <i>Family</i> • <i>School</i> • <i>What you did after school</i> • <i>Married</i> • <i>Career</i> • <i>Where you have lived</i> • <i>Hobbies</i> • <i>Travel</i> • <i>What has given you most pleasure and joy in life</i>

<p>Would you like to have flowers at your funeral?</p>	
<p>If yes, what should be done with any flowers after your funeral?</p>	
<p>Do you wish a collection for a charity of your choice to be taken at the end of your funeral? If yes, which charity?</p>	
<p>Do you wish there to be a gathering (social or otherwise) after the funeral? Do you have any requests about this?</p>	

<p>If you wish to donate your body or your organs for medical science have you made arrangements for this to happen? Please say who you have contacted about this.</p>	
<p>Would you like notices in newspapers? If yes, which papers?</p>	
<p>How do you want these worded?</p>	
<p>If you have other comments on the arrangements you would like to make for your funeral, please state them here</p>	

The contents of this document express my wishes and preferences for my funeral.

Signature:

Date:

Eulogy Information

DOB

Where you were born / grew up

Family

School / Education

What you did after school

Married / Significant relationships

Career

Where you have lived

Hobbies / Interests

Travel

What has given you most pleasure and joy in life

Anything else you wish to add