

# Funeral Planning Checklist

Although it's unpleasant to consider what will happen after your death, or the death of a loved one, it's important to plan ahead to avoid even more financial and emotional stress in the future. You can use this check list to take action and ease the burden on your family for when they have to carry out your final wishes.

## Planning Ahead

### General Preparations

- Create a will or write down last wishes
- Decide what you want written in your obituary
- Decide if you'd like funeral guests to donate to a charity
- Decide if you'd like to keep jewelry with you or returned to family
- Choose a funeral home
- Decide if you'd like a burial or cremation
- Choose a casket or container
- Choose burial spot, columbarium niche, or other location
- Choose grave marker or inscription
- Decide on a type of funeral service
- Decide if you'd like to have a viewing or visitation
- Decide if you'd like floral arrangements
- Decide if you'd like religious items or songs at the funeral
- Choose readings
- Choose transportation for deceased and for loved ones

### Participants

- Decide if you'd like clergy or another person to do readings
- Decide who will perform or select music
- Choose pallbearers
- Choose family member or friend to present a eulogy or speech

## Costs

- Get estimates of how much the service would cost today
- Consider that these estimates will increase over time
- Calculate if you 'd have enough to cover the costs or if you need a life insurance policy

## Final Arrangements

These actions will be done by your family or friends; they cannot be done in advance.

- Arrange transfer from place of death to funeral home
- Apply for death certificates
- Apply for burial permit if needed
- Choose date and time for funeral service
- Compose and submit obituary to local newspapers
- Contact participants
- Make arrangements for a reception

## Cover the Costs

When planning ahead, it's important to remember that the average funeral costs more than \$10,000. If you'd like to learn more about how you could help your family cover the costs of funeral, burial or cremation, please visit [www.funeral-burial-insurance.com](http://www.funeral-burial-insurance.com) or give us a call at 855-490-4655.