

THE SERVICE OR CELEBRATION OF LIFE

I **do / don't** mind where the service takes place (give details if appropriate):

I would like **family / friends / a faith leader / celebrant** to lead the service

(if wished, specify religion or type of celebrant): _____

I want **flowers / family flowers only / donations to charity / none of these**

I would like the following music/hymns: _____

I would like the following readings/poetry: _____

Other thoughts: _____

Funeral Planning Wishes

Have your say in planning an affordable, meaningful funeral.



STRUGGLING WITH FUNERAL COSTS?

This form was created by Down to Earth, a national helpline that offers free practical support to anyone struggling with funeral costs. We listen to your wishes and work with you to arrange a meaningful funeral that is as affordable as possible.

downtoearth@qsa.org.uk

020 8983 5055 office hours Monday to Friday

www.downtoearthsupport.org.uk

—
QUAKER
SOCIAL
ACTION
—

CELEBRATING LIFE YOUR WAY

Your final celebration is about what matters to you. Words, music and actions can be far more powerful than expensive cars or coffins. Your preference for burial or cremation is very personal, but it's worth noting that burials can often cost a lot more. Even if you don't mind what happens, writing that down can be a big help to your next of kin. Tell someone where this form is kept and consider giving them a copy.

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: _____

Address: _____

My funeral is likely to be arranged by: _____

Address: _____

Tel. no: _____

Email: _____

Relationship to me: _____

Location of will, if you have one: _____

PAYING FOR MY FUNERAL

I have a funeral plan with: _____

I have an insurance policy with: _____

I have savings in the following bank/post office/credit union: _____

I have a pension(s) with: _____

I worked for these companies/in these industries (give rough dates): _____

Location of work history documents: _____



Where there is text in *italics* giving different options just ~~cross through~~ the options you don't want.

BEFORE THE FUNERAL

I ***am / am not*** happy for people to see me before the funeral

I ***do / don't*** mind how I am dressed (give details if appropriate): _____

I ***do / don't*** want to be embalmed

I ***do / don't*** want my organs to be donated

I have registered my body for donation to medical science

The medical school's details are: _____

TYPE AND LOCATION OF FUNERAL

I ***prefer / need*** to be ***buried / cremated***

I ***do / don't*** mind where I am buried/cremated (give details if appropriate):

I own a burial plot with space (give cemetery, plot number and location of deed of ownership if possible): _____

I ***do / don't*** want ***family / friends*** to attend the burial/cremation (give details if wished):

I ***do / don't*** want a following car: _____

I would prefer to use the following funeral director (give details if wished):

Funeral wishes guidance notes

PERSONAL DETAILS

My funeral is likely to be arranged by

If you do not have a family member or friend who can take responsibility for your funeral write the name of your Council and give their contact details.

If this is the case, some elements on the form may not be available for your funeral, such as whether or not there is a following car or flowers, choosing what happens to cremated remains or even the ability for people to attend. There is no set service provided by all Councils across the country and while most will allow people to attend it does vary. However, it is still a good idea to complete this form so the Council knows if you want to be buried or cremated and, if they do hold a service, they know what you would like it to include.

PAYING FOR MY FUNERAL

I worked for these companies/in these industries

Many occupational charities give grants to help with funeral costs so it can be helpful for your family/friends to know about your work history. Most charities want to see evidence of that work, so it will also help to tell people where they can find your P60s, payslips, employment contracts, training certificates etc.

If you don't have any paperwork, we strongly advise using this simple form to apply for your National Insurance records, giving 'To apply to an occupational benevolent fund' as the 'Claim details' under 'Other': <https://www.gov.uk/get-proof-employment-history>
It's not possible to do this for someone who has died, so it's best for you to do it now.

BEFORE THE FUNERAL

I *am* / *am* not happy for people to see me before the funeral

Viewing the deceased is a very personal choice, it may be an important part of the grieving process for some people, but others may want to remember you how you were when you were alive. Also, in some situations it may not be possible/advisable. However, indicating how you feel about it can be helpful to others. Some low cost packages may not allow this or may charge extra.

I *do* / *don't* mind how I am dressed

If you don't mind and the person arranging your funeral doesn't provide clothes to the funeral director then you should be dressed in a gown. If you want to be dressed in your own clothes write this down, including if you have strong feelings about which ones. Some low cost packages may not allow this or may charge extra.

I *do* / *don't* want to be embalmed

Embalming is a process that aims to preserve the body for longer by delaying the natural effects of death. It is considered an invasive procedure as it replaces the body's fluids with chemicals. It is not a requirement, not even if you want people to see you before the funeral, though sometimes it might be advised. There is a cost associated with this service.

I *do* / *don't* want my organs to be donated

In England, Wales and Scotland you are automatically considered to have consented to organ donation unless you indicate you don't want this. Family and friends are always consulted though and their opinions respected, so it is best if they know what you want. If you want to donate your organs, recording it here also legally strengthens the automatic consent and if you don't want to, your family can provide this to show your wishes.

You can also record your decision officially here:
<https://www.organdonation.nhs.uk/register-your-decision/>

In Northern Ireland there is no assumed consent, you have to register with the NHS if you want to be an organ donor: <https://www.organdonationni.info/register-now>

TYPE AND LOCATION OF FUNERAL

I *prefer / need* to be *buried / cremated*

Your preference for burial or cremation is a personal choice, but it's worth noting that burials often cost a lot more. If the funeral is likely to be arranged by your local Council it is crucial to state here if you have a strong preference for burial. As cremation is cheaper in many parts of the country Councils will often favour a cremation, but if they know you did not want to be cremated then they have to bury you by law.

I *do / don't* mind where I am buried/cremated

A burial will likely be more expensive if you and/or the person buying the grave are not resident in the area in which you want to be buried. Sometimes it can be as much as three or four times the price.

I *do / don't* want *family / friends* to attend the burial/cremation

Do you want an attended funeral where a service is held at the same time as the burial/cremation? Or would you prefer to have an unattended burial/cremation? If you choose to have an attended funeral, it could also help to be specific if there are any estranged family/friends who your next of kin may be unsure whether or not to invite.

I would prefer to use the following funeral director

Funeral directors can charge wildly different prices for the same service, so it is worth shopping around before making a decision. It may also be a good idea to note down any reasons for choosing a specific company i.e. 'I know their costs are reasonable' or 'I have used them before and they know my family', plus whether or not you are open to a change of funeral director after your death if those arranging the funeral feel there is a better option. As with any company, funeral director businesses can change at any time, including being taken over by a larger company, so their prices may not stay reasonable.

It is also possible to arrange the funeral yourself without using a funeral director, though this isn't for everyone. We have information about DIY funerals on our website.

THE SERVICE OR CELEBRATION OF LIFE

I *do / don't* mind where the service takes place

Holding the service at a separate location to the burial/cremation can add extra costs. Funeral directors will normally charge more to attend two locations. There is also likely to be a fee if you want to hire a venue, unless you regularly attend a church, in which case the fee might be waived. Some people choose to have a service in a less formal setting, such as a favourite location or at home.

If you have chosen an unattended burial or cremation, but would like people to celebrate/commemorate your life at another time, you can still use this section to note down any preferences.

Other thoughts

This could include things like other religious elements you'd like, green funeral wishes or what should happen to your ashes if cremated. If you've opted for an unattended burial/cremation, but would still like people to celebrate your life at another time, you could make this clear here.

Sometimes people like to take the pressure off their family and friends by adding something like this, '*Please don't go into debt or leave yourself in difficulties to honour my wishes*'.