

Losing a loved one is hard

Planning a memorial shouldn't be

Affordable funeral service planning made easy!



Helpful Info

If you need to deliver a eulogy or write an obituary, or info regarding pre-planning we are here to help

are looking for information

[Learn more >](#)



Documents

Additional resources such as commonly needed documents can be found here

[Learn more >](#)



Grief Support

Coping with a loss can be tough. You can find support in our social community

[Learn more >](#)



Save Time

make arrangements with

Quickly find funeral service providers to meet your requests

who want

Get up to 50% off when you select 'Get Started' below to use the Funeral Choice Service and you could get up to 50% off

[Get Started >](#)



Save Money

Have the affordable funeral service they deserve

*No shopping around - just low prices
Service providers find you.*

[Get Started >](#)



Save Stress

Easily make funeral arrangements across States

town or across the country

Plan in the comfort and privacy of your own home with less worry and less stress

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* Company address is: PO Box 1221
Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632

HELPFUL INFO



If you need to deliver a eulogy or write an obituary, or ~~info~~ regarding pre-planning we are here to help


[Writing a Eulogy](#)
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Writing a Eulogy

You were probably asked to deliver a eulogy because of your close relationship to the deceased, and because the family trusts you to honor his or her memory on behalf of family and friends. The family doesn't want to make you feel uncomfortable, foolish or as though your grief is on display. It's an honor they've bestowed upon you. Helping others say goodbye may turn out to be a rewarding experience. Don't worry about making mistakes. "A eulogy comes from the heart of the deliverer. I can't see how a mistake could be made as long as it [the eulogy] is honest and true," says Andrea Traunero of Hannay-Traunero Funeral Home in Tiffin, Ohio.

Don't let the thought of writing intimidate you. You don't have to be a novelist to move people. Everyone has a story to tell and that's your job as a eulogist. Tell people your story.

In the book "A Labor of Love: How to Write a Eulogy," author Garry Schaeffer says a eulogy should convey the feelings and experiences of the person giving the eulogy, and should be written in an informal, conversational tone. Schaeffer dispels the misconceptions that a eulogy should objectively summarize the person's life or speak for all present. "Sit down and write from the heart," says Kevin Stockham of Stockham Family Funeral Home in McPherson, Kansas.

Traunero says eulogists often write about the person's attributes, memories and common times that were shared together. Sometimes they include the deceased's favorite poems, book passages, scripture verses, quotes, expressions, lines from songs or items that were written by the deceased. "Whatever is selected, it generally reflects the loved one's lifestyle," says Traunero.



THESE QUESTIONS SHOULD GET YOU THINKING

- How did you and the deceased become close?
- Is there a humorous or touching event that represents the essence of your passed loved one?
- What did you and others love and admire about the deceased?
- What will you miss most about him or her?

Some of the simplest thoughts are deeply touching and easy for those congregated to identify with. For example, "I'll miss her smile," or "I'll never forget the way he crinkled his nose when he laughed," are just as good as "I admired her selflessness."

A funeral is one time you'll surely have a kind and empathetic audience. They feel for you and are on your side. You'll only have to speak for five to ten minutes, but your gift will live in the hearts of the deceased's family and friends.

If you're worried about choking up or breaking down in the middle of your eulogy, you can take a moment to compose yourself, then carry on, as Schaeffer recommends, or you can have a back up person ready to step in.

TIPS

- Be honest and focus on the person's positive qualities.
- Humor is acceptable if it fits the personality of the deceased.
- "If you are inclined to be a perfectionist, lower your expectations and just do what you can given the short time-frame."

- Keep it brief. Five to ten minutes is the norm, but it's a good idea to verify that with the minister or funeral director.
- Leo Saguin recommends interviewing family and friends in his book "How to Write and Deliver a Loving Eulogy."
- Put the eulogy on paper - at least in outline form.
- If you're planning the funeral, you might want to consider the people congregated passing a microphone or take turns standing up to share their thoughts. "It's like a lot of mini eulogies," says Stockham, "and is more spontaneous."

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Writing an Obituary

Here are some helpful tips to aide in writing an obituary.

GRAB A COPY OF YOUR LOCAL PAPER

Most newspapers require obituaries to be written in a specific style, so take a look at your paper when looking for a guideline on how to write an obituary. You also should ask your funeral home if they have templates. If you plan on submitting to other newspapers, try to get a copy, or check to see if they print obits online. If you don't follow the newspaper's style, they will likely rewrite your obituary, which could introduce errors into the writeup.

SET A PRICE LIMIT IF YOU'RE ON A BUDGET

Most newspapers charge by the column inch, and lengthy tributes can cost you hundreds of dollars. Many funeral homes will include a basic obituary as part of the funeral package. If your funeral home will be submitting the obit, ask them what the word limit is, and how much it will cost you for each additional inch. Because the word count per inch varies depending on the column width and font size used in the newspaper, call your funeral home or local newspaper and ask them roughly how many words are in a column inch for obituaries. Also ask them if there are any length restrictions. This will give you a rough idea of how much you should write.

ASK FOR THE DEADLINE TIME

Most daily morning papers have a deadline of 4 or 5 p.m., so you'll want to submit your obit as soon as possible to ensure accuracy, especially if you want it to run the next day. Newspapers often make exceptions and take obits after deadline, but just remember that doing this increases the chances that an error will appear because editors might not have enough time to proofread it.

DECIDE WHAT YOU WANT TO INCLUDE AND WRITE THE OBIT

If you don't have all of the information you need, you'll want to make phone calls and gather these facts as soon as possible, preferably before you start writing.

WRITE THE OBIT

Now that you have all of the information you need, it's time to sit down and write the obit. Here's a basic template that you can use to get started. I've also included a sample obituary below to help you out.

HAVE SOMEONE ELSE, PREFERABLY A CLOSE FAMILY MEMBER OR

FRIEND, PROOF THE OBITUARY

It is always a good idea to have someone else read the obit before you submit it to the newspaper. This person should not only check for spelling and grammatical errors, but they also should make sure you didn't leave out important family members or anything else that was inadvertently excluded. As you're writing and reading the obituary, think about how your loved one would want others to remember him/her. If fishing was his life, you should include that. But if he was in the chess club just to pass the time, you might want to leave that out. If she was close to her extended family, you might want to make an effort to get those names in and leave something else out.

SUBMIT AN ELECTRONIC COPY VIA E-MAIL

~~I can't stress this enough. When I worked at a newspaper,~~ 90 percent of all obituary errors started with people (or funeral homes) who submitted a typed or handwritten copy. Even if you type it on your computer and fax it in, someone at the newspaper will have to scan it in or retype it, increasing the chance that errors will be introduced into the obituary. If the funeral home is submitting the obituary on your behalf, make sure that they plan on e-mailing the announcement to the paper. If not, you should submit it to the newspaper yourself.

X

REQUEST TO RECEIVE A PROOF FROM THE NEWSPAPER BEFORE YOUR OBITUARY IS PRINTED

You probably don't have the time or energy to worry about it at this point, but if you're concerned about errors, ask if you can see a proof before it goes to press. Most newspapers won't allow you to look at a final copy, but if you put up a big enough fuss, many papers, especially small-town papers, will honor your request (we did). You may have to come into the newspaper office or have a copy faxed to you.

SUBMIT THE OBITUARY TO OTHER NEWSPAPERS

If there are other towns where your loved one lived and had a number of family or friends, you may want to submit the obit to those newspapers. Just check those newspapers' guidelines and modify the style of the obit as necessary.

Check the obit when it prints in the paper. If there are errors, call your newspaper to let them know. Again, if you put up enough of a fuss, they should reprint it the next day for free.

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Q&A Pre-Planning

Here are some things to consider with thinking about pre-planning.

WHY SHOULD I PREARRANGE MY FUNERAL OR BURIAL?

When you plan ahead, you will be able to consider the many options available. You will have the opportunity to make an informed decision about your funeral and cemetery arrangements, and the form of memorial you prefer. You will be able to make choices that are meaningful to both you and your family, and you will gain peace of mind knowing your family and friends will be relieved of the emotional and financial burden often associated with making arrangements when a death occurs. In addition, by pre-funding your funeral and cemetery services, a guaranteed price contract will allow you to purchase at today's prices, free from inflationary pressures in the future. (Check to determine whether prices are guaranteed). Your local funeral or cemetery provider can help you pre-plan.

IF I PRE-PLAN AND PREPAY MY FUNERAL, HOW DO I KNOW THAT THE MONEY WILL BE THERE WHEN I DIE?

It's important to remember that prearrangement is a two part transaction. The first is the funeral agreement between you and the funeral home and/or cemetery. That agreement is comprised mostly (sometimes completely depending upon your state laws) of elements that are guaranteed to be performed at no additional costs to your family once the funding is complete. The second is the actual funding of the agreement. Ironically, it's the prearrangement provider who is the most concerned with the question of the funds being available at death. That's why they carefully consider the financial soundness of where funds set aside for funeral and cemetery prearrangement agreements will be placed.

IF I PREPAY MY FUNERAL, WHAT HAPPENS TO THE INTEREST THAT MY MONEY EARNS?

Because

you have a prearranged funeral or burial agreement that is comprised of items that are guaranteed to be performed by the funeral home or cemetery at no additional cost to you, the interest (or growth if a life insurance policy) is retained by the funeral home/cemetery to offset the rising costs of those specified goods and services over time. That's the value of prearranging and prefunding at today's costs!

X

CAN I CHANGE ANY OF THESE PREPAID FUNERAL SERVICES LATER?

Changes are generally possible, but be careful. When changes are made, they oftentimes affect the terms of guarantees that were created under the original agreement. In the event funds paid toward a funeral plan are excludable resources for purposes of receiving social services (SSI or Medicaid), changing the terms of that agreement could jeopardize one's qualification for assistance. It is not recommended that irrevocably assigned funeral plans be changed in any way.

WHAT IF YOUR FUNERAL HOME OR CEMETERY CHANGES OWNERSHIP?

Prior contractual agreements are not voided simply because a change of ownership occurs. The funeral planning agreement you have with the prior ownership is carried forward with successor owners as part of the purchase agreement.

IS THERE A PRE-PAYMENT PENALTY FOR PAYING OFF THESE ARRANGEMENTS IN ADVANCE?

It's not uncommon to have a small processing fee associated with an early payment, but it should not be construed as a "penalty." In the long run, there is usually a good amount of money to be saved by paying off early. Of course, funding agreements vary. Please be sure to check the terms of your (or your proposed) funding agreement for details.

CAN SOCIAL SERVICES TAKE MY PRE-ARRANGEMENTS AWAY FROM ME?

Take away? No. Challenge the amount being set aside to pay for an expensive funeral? Yes. Funds set aside to pay for a reasonable funeral arrangement are not counted as assets as one qualifies for social services. Your local funeral director can provide counsel regarding the amount local social services agencies consider reasonable and customary to spend on a funeral.

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DOCUMENTS

Commonly Needed Forms

Need Help Getting Started?

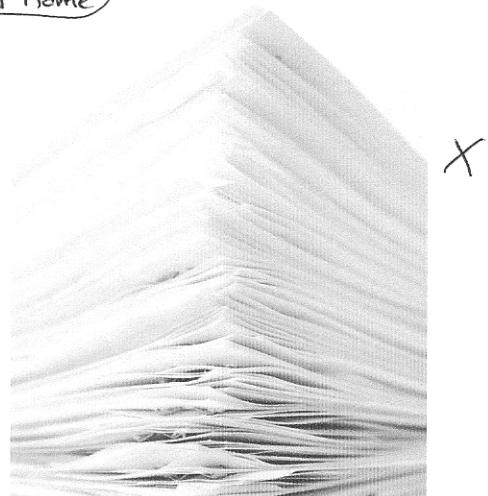
Here are a few forms we think you might need. Simply click on the document icon and a copy will be downloaded to your computer.

 **Pre-Planning Checklist**

This is a pre-planning checklist that can help your loved ones ensure their affairs are in order:

load which can be printed out to be filled out and given to the Funeral Home you select use our service.

You or your loved ones ensure all


 **Release Form**

This form authorizes the release of the human remains and any personal property of the deceased to their chosen funeral home and/or its agents.

 **Embalming Authorization**

Authorizes the Funeral Home and/or its agents permission to embalm, and or disinfect, and or preserve for burial and or other disposition of the deceased body.

 **Cremation (family) Authorization**

Use the following Cremation Authorization Form when the Deceased has not pre-signed a cremation authorization prior to death. There are three places on the form that require a signature(s).

Here are some of the most commonly required documents when preparing for mortuarial responsibilities.

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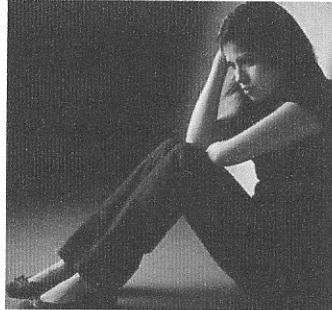
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DEALING WITH GRIEF



Coping with loss can be difficult - you are not alone. Join our social community.



Coming Soon

Center for Loss & Life
Transition

Here are some books for family who grieve:

- Widowed by Dr. Joyce Brothers
- How to Survive the Loss of a Child by Catherine Sanders
- The Grieving Child: A Parent's Guide by Helen Fitzgerald
- When Parents Die: Learning to Live with the Loss of a Parent by Rebecca Abrams

Some Steps to Take

When a loved one passes away, emotions can take you on a rollercoaster ride. That stomach-dropping ache can feel like it's hanging on for days, weeks, months, and even years. Grief is an important, painful step, as you move through dealing with the loss of a loved one. There is no one formula for this type of sorrow because we are all unique, as is the relationship we have with the person we lost.

We are not certified grief counselors, ~~and~~ *but*, there are many websites to help overcome grief and work through these hard emotions. A google search of "Dealing with Grief" returned over 1.8 million other resources.

We do feel there are definitely trends toward ways of initially understanding and dealing with your grief. Here are a few ways to work through the loss of a loved one:

- Be involved in planning the funeral service.
- Keep in contact with friends.
- Talk about how you feel with friends and family.
- Listen to music. *This will help you access your feelings*
- Spend time outdoors.
- If you have a hobby spend some extra time doing it.
- Exercise is important because it causes metabolic changes that can help relieve sadness.
- Avoid drinking or drug use to escape your emotions.
- Don't hesitate to talk to a trained professional.

(EV) Everyone has their own way to move through this hard part of life. We also invite you to check back and join our social communities once they are live. You can read words of encouragement and find and provide support for others working through this challenging time, the same as you.

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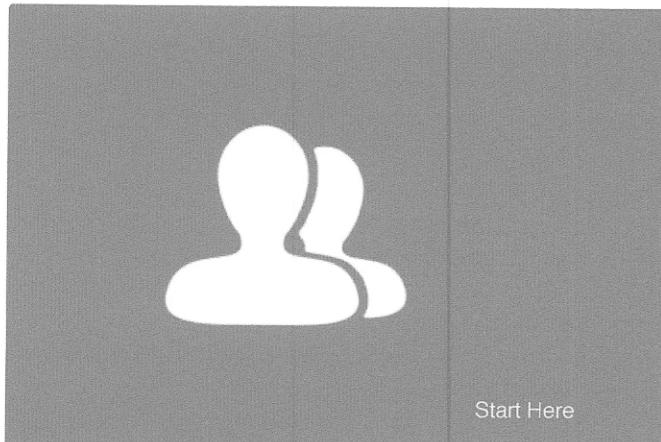
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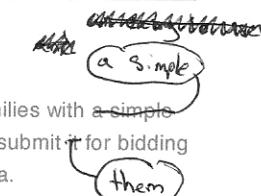
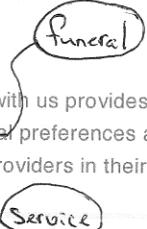
REGISTER YOUR ACCOUNT

Family



Our Family Account

Creating a Family account with us provides families with a simple way to specify their memorial preferences and submit it for bidding with numerous mortuaries providers in their area.



Funeral Director Home



X

Our Funeral Director Account

Creating a Funeral Director account with us provides service providers with access to be matched with families seeking mortuaries services in their area and bid for their business.



X

X

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Choose a Profile ..

FAMILY ACCOUNT REGISTRATION

Let us help you find a funeral service provider

Contact Person:

Email

First Name

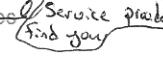
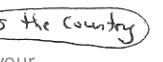
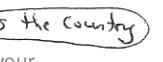
Last Name

Password

Confirm Password

Submit**Cancel**

Why Choose Us? 

- ✓ Quick access to funeral service providers to meet your requests
- ✓ Up to 50% off when you select 
- ✓ No shopping around just low prices 
- ✓ Easily make funeral arrangements across States 
- ✓ Plan in the comfort and privacy of your own home
- ✓ Less time, Less worry and less stress

If password is not accepted, it should indicate so.
 Currently it does nothing when you click "Submit" with a bad password entry.
 We should have a small call-out on password format

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How It Works

How To Make Funeral Arrangements and Save!

There are a lot of tips people will give you to save on a funeral. But they almost always require you to sacrifice your funeral and burial traditions ~~X~~ to settle for a memorial you or your loved one may not have wanted. Helping to plan meaningful affordable funeral services is what we do. So before you make a decision to either spend thousands of dollars more than is needed or to limit the memorial so that it fits in a budget, we urge to put savonafuneral.com to the test.

Get started now >

when choosing

or worse

try Funeral-Choice.com

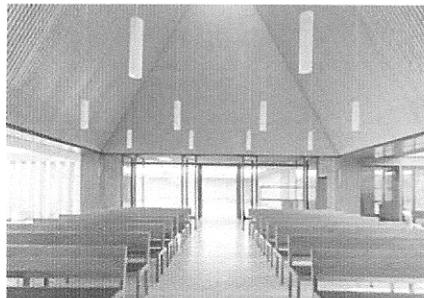
Make Arrangements - in the comfort of your own home

Plan, or preplan, the meaningful affordable funeral ceremony of a loved one in the comfort and privacy of your own home. We are here to help you and your family make the arrangements which best meet your religious and cultural desires as well as your budget.



Choose - the funeral home that best fits your request

Within 1 hour, we will email you regarding the funeral homes that ~~have~~ have agreed to provide the goods, services and ceremony you have requested. We only ask that you make a 10% deposit through ~~Pay-Pal~~ to confirm the arrangements and that's it!



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GRIEF SUPPORT

Coping with a loss can be tough. You can find support in our social community

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How It Works

Grow Your Business

Serve more families and save time, effort, and expenses while doing it, with ~~the moment the arrangements are made.~~ Funeral-Choice.com.

Get started now >

A productive website is not about your company. It's about attracting, engaging, and winning opportunities to serve the needs of families that know nothing about your funeral home, funeral director, the services you offer, or the quality you consistently deliver.

Funeral-Choice.com knows how to attract and engage families in ways that establish relationships, build trust, and proves service before families ever walk through the door of a funeral home.

There's no secrets or gimmicks involved. Simply put, we provide a rich resource of trusted news, reviews, informative material, social media, and support to our families through their periods of grief.

While this may sound easy, it is not. Established subject experts who offer a deep understanding of the funeral industry, and the Internet; its historical facts and growing market trends, staff our company.

Our mission is to use technology to make processes faster, easier, and more profitable for people and businesses.

Register

Turn your website into a business asset by registering with Funeral-Choice.com – the one website built exclusively to provide both, volume and sales increases for Funeral Directors while adding value to Families. *(in need.)*

How Does It Work?

Register and Submit bids to serve the available opportunities.

Get started now >

Though there are similar online services, Funeral-Choice.com is the first of its kind and strives to create the largest marketplace for facilitating memorial arrangements. Funeral-Choice.com is designed to streamline the funeral arrangement decision-making process between families and funeral homes.

Funeral Directors need only to register their funeral home, create a profile by simply using profile editor. Once this is completed, the profile and the profile's contact person will be alerted to available opportunities to serve families who desire to arrange memorials in your area, *(the moment the arrangements are made.)*

If your Funeral Home is selected by a family, they will pay 10% of the agreed upon cost for the services they request to Funeral-Choice.com via our website as deposit. The balance of the agreed upon amount will be submitted to your Funeral Home directly from the family.