

HOW TO CHOOSE A FUNERAL HOME

A Guide by:



HOW TO CHOOSE A FUNERAL HOME

During a time of need, the importance of your choice of funeral home cannot be understated. You need a funeral director to help you honor your loved one in a meaningful, healing way. Most cities have many funeral homes, so how are you to decide? Have these crucial conversations with your family and funeral directors before deciding on a funeral home to make sure you consider all angles of the decision.

4 STEPS TO TAKE WHEN CHOOSING A FUNERAL HOME

1 - Talk to family members who are involved in decisions

In a time of loss, it is crucial that family members communicate clearly and openly with one another. When making funeral decisions, family members may have differing ideas and desires. There is a lot of love and concern behind all of these desires and ideas. Discussion about funeral decisions can help family members feel like they are sharing in honoring the loved one that has passed.

Through this discussion, a family may find out that one member has a personal connection to a funeral director that will make easier the choice between funeral homes. This personal connection may create a better experience for family members throughout the funeral arranging process.

2 - Set a budget your family has to work with

Setting a realistic budget can be part of the conversation family members have together. It is a good idea to remind everyone of the common goal of the arrangements: to honor a loved one and begin the grieving process for family and friends. That common goal is a great starting point for a discussion about budget. Even with that goal and within a set budget there will be many options available and choices to make.

When setting the budget, be sure to find out if the loved one who passed had any final wishes registered with a funeral home. He or she may have prepaid for their funeral, purchased funeral insurance or set aside an amount to pay for their funeral arrangements. There may also be special benefits available to help with arrangements for veterans.

3 - Call funeral homes in your area to talk with funeral directors and set up tours

Funeral directors are professionals trained in death care. Their career revolves around helping families honor loved ones and begin the process of grieving. When talking on the phone with a funeral director, you will be able to learn a lot of important information. They can provide a glimpse into the types of services the funeral home has available, the steps your family will need to take, pricing and how it all fits your budget.

The funeral director will be able to answer specific questions about the funeral arranging process. Funeral directors help your family with the details. If your family has ideas of how they would like to honor your loved one, feel free to share with the funeral director. They will be able to tell you about how they can fulfill those wishes. In addition, many funeral homes have grief care programs to help families well after the funeral.

4 - Visit funeral homes to see facilities and ask more questions

When you are at the funeral home you may be able to better imagine how your family's ideas can come to life. Visiting funeral homes will help you envision friends and family gathering there for a service. The funeral director will help you consider the needs and wants of that scenario. Feel free to ask the funeral director questions: no question is insignificant. Is there enough parking for the number of people who will attend? Is the staff friendly? Are the facilities updated? The funeral director will be more than happy to answer these questions and many more.

As you visit the funeral home, feel free to take notes of what you like about the facilities and space. Honoring your loved one is the top priority for both your family and for the funeral director who helps you make arrangements.

Once you leave the funeral home, remember that the funeral director will be available for you to reach out with any additional questions or requests while you are making decisions and when you formally begin the arrangement process. Your funeral director is there to guide your family every step of the way and is eager to help with any details that need to be addressed. No ask is too small.

After speaking with a few funeral directors and touring facilities, it may be clear which funeral home will be the right fit to help your family through this complex time of loss, honoring and grief. The right fit will help ease the burden of loss rather than adding to the burden on your family.

NOTES SHEET FOR FUNERAL INFORMATION

Reflection and Discussion Questions for Families

- What would make our loved one feel honored?
- What would help us feel connected to our loved one?
What kind of service would best celebrate and represent our loved one's life?
- How many people will the funeral home need to accommodate?
- What kind of services do we need? A religious ceremony? Visitation? Celebration of life? All?
- What facilities will be needed to host the kind of service desired?
- Do any of my family members know one or more of the funeral directors on staff?
- Have any of our family members worked with this funeral home in the past? How was the experience?
- Does the funeral home project an ambiance that "fits" our family?

- Location, location, location. Is the facility close to home, the church, and the cemetery that will be used?
- Is the funeral home accessible? Does it have accommodations for guests of all ages?
- If the disposition of choice is cremation, does the funeral home own their own crematory?
- What music do we want played at the visitation? Funeral service? Reception? Can we play videos and share pictures on TVs in the funeral home?
- Are easels available for displaying pictures? What else can I bring to the funeral home to memorialize my loved one?
- Do we want a band, a big screen for pictures, a sound system, a piano? Does the funeral home have what we need/want?

NOTES SHEET FOR FUNERAL INFORMATION

Funeral Home Name	Funeral Home Name
Funeral Director Name/Contact	Funeral Director Name/Contact
Professionalism on the Phone	Professionalism on the Phone

NOTES SHEET FOR FUNERAL INFORMATION

<p>Proximity to Home, Church, Cemetery</p>	<p>Proximity to Home, Church, Cemetery</p>
<p>Cleanliness of Facilities</p>	<p>Cleanliness of Facilities</p>
<p>Highlights of Facilities</p>	<p>Highlights of Facilities</p>

NOTES SHEET FOR FUNERAL INFORMATION

Special Features to Accomodate Our Plans	Special Features to Accomodate Our Plans
Grief Care Program Info	Grief Care Program Info

Feel free to print out as many copies of the notes sheet as you need

