



How to: Pre-plan

Planning a funeral service can provide a sense of being prepared and being able to do something useful. It can also make things a bit easier if you make some decisions ahead of time, when you're not grappling with fresh grief.

Thinking ahead

Most aspects of a funeral can't be fully prepared because they depend on a number of factors: venue availability, whether family and friends are all nearby, seasonal flowers, etc. However, if you note down your preferences, this will help to guide funeral service decisions. Here are some questions to consider:

Cremation or burial?

Have you considered making arrangements to pay for the funeral?

Do you have a preference about whether or not to have viewings?

Do you have a preference about embalming?

Do you have a particular resting place in mind, whether it's a cemetery, a specific burial plot, or the location of where the ashes should be scattered?

Do you want a newspaper notice?

What clothing would you like to be dressed in?

What type of casket and/or urn would you like?

Would you prefer an open or closed casket funeral?

Are there any meaningful mementos or heirlooms you'd like placed in your casket?

Do you prefer a religious or a secular service?

Do you have a venue in mind?

Is there someone you would like to lead the service (ie a celebrant, minister or family member)?

What floral arrangements, if any, would you like at your service?

Would you like to invite donations to a charity in lieu of flowers?

What music, if any, would you like at your service?

There is one thing you can prepare ahead of time: the registration details.

Registration details

This form will be used to register death and generate the Death Certificate. Information should be true and complete to the best of your knowledge.

Name at birth: _____

Date of birth: _____

Town/city and country of birth: _____

Ethnic group(s): _____

Years in New Zealand: (if not born here) _____

Occupation in working life: _____

Usual place of residence: _____

Ages of daughters: (if deceased, _____ put age at _____)

Ages of sons: (death and "d") _____

Mother's full name: _____

Mother's maiden name: _____

Mother's occupation: _____

Father's full name: _____

Father's occupation: _____

Relationship status at time of death:

married / civil union / marriage or civil union dissolved / in a de facto relationship / spouse or partner deceased / permanently separated / never in a legal relationship

Details of most recent legal relationship

Relationship type: marriage / civil union / de facto

Spouse's name at time of marriage: _____

Spouse's gender: _____ Spouse's age now: _____

Town/city and country of marriage: _____

Deceased person's age at time of marriage: _____

Details of next most recent legal relationship

Relationship type: marriage / civil union / de facto

Spouse's name at time of marriage: _____

Spouse's gender: _____ Spouse's age now: _____

Town/city and country of marriage: _____

Deceased person's age at time of marriage: _____