

Heart & Soul
Funerals

Green Fuse Bereavement Care



Funeral and Farewell Wishes

This document sets out
the Funeral and
Farewell Wishes
of

Funeral and Farewell Wishes, whether in a Will, or letter, or document as follows, are not legally binding on your executor, relatives and friends, but will usually be followed where possible and if reasonable. This document may stimulate you to think of the kind of funeral and farewell you might like; and ensure that those who may be responsible for the events know your wishes.

Although there are advantages in planning your funeral and making your wishes known ahead of time, it is worth bearing in mind that if you stipulate everything you deny those you leave behind the opportunity to find their own way to say farewell, which can be healing as part of their initial process of grieving. We therefore recommend that you guide them on your main wishes and leave them scope to make their own contributions.

We recommend that you lodge a copy of your completed Funeral and Farewell Wishes and any other documents relating to your dying with your next of kin, whoever you are asking to help arrange your funeral and your solicitor.

Your completion of this document can be made easier by using the book, **We Need To Talk About The Funeral – 101 Practical Ways To Commemorate And Celebrate A Life**, written by Jane Morrell and Simon Smith of Heart & Soul Funerals, with a foreword by Clare Rayner OBE and published by Accent Press, ISBN 978 1906125011. It is available from us to download at www.heartandsoulfunerals.co.uk/funeralbook.htm. Come in to see us and we can lend you one.

Please Note: All point numbers and page references refer to that book, for example: *see 13. Officially Appoint Your Next Of Kin on page 27* means refer to point number 13 on page 27 of the book *We Need To Talk About The Funeral* if you have it available.

1. General Information

1.1. I of

.....
set out below my wishes for my funeral.

1.2. I have written a Will
If yes, it is lodged at

Yes / No

.....
.....
.....

My Will does / does not contain information about my funeral wishes. In the event that it does, please treat this present document as expanding on the wishes expressed in that Will, with the Will taking legal precedence if relevant.

1.3. My Next Of Kin is (see Point 13. Officially Appoint Your Next Of Kin on page 27 of *We Need To Talk About The Funeral*):

Name:

Address:

.....

Telephone number & email:

1.4. My Executors are:

Name:

Address:

.....

Telephone number & email:

Name:

Address:

.....

Telephone number & email:

1.5. My solicitor is:

Name:

Address:

.....

Telephone number & email:

1.6. I have appointed a Funeral Guardian Yes / No
(see 14. A Funeral Guardian p.28**)

Name:

Address:

.....

Telephone number & email:

** see 14. A Funeral Guardian p.28 means see point number 14 on page 28 of the book We Need To Talk About The Funeral.

1.7. Funeral Director

☐

I would like to appoint these funeral directors to carry out the arrangements. Please specify.

2. Financing Arrangements

(see 12. Planning Payment p 25-26)

2. Finance

2.1. I have a pre-paid funeral plan Yes / No

If yes, give details of company or funeral director, and any plan or reference number you have.

2.2. I have put money aside in a savings account Yes / No

Give name of bank or building society, sort code, account name, account number. A joint account is best as it will not be frozen.

2.3. I have funeral or whole life insurance scheme Yes / No

Give the name of the insurance company, their address and telephone number and the policy number

3. Care Of My Body Until The Funeral

(see Caring For The Body, pp30-41)

3.1. I wish to donate my whole body to science Yes / No

If so, give details of any arrangements made

3.2. I wish to donate certain organs to science Yes / No

If so, give details

3.3. As far as possible, leave my body undisturbed after my death for

hours / days as a preference / for religious or spiritual reasons.

3.4. Nurses attending the death normally lay out the body, but I would like it very much if

could also assist / do this instead / could be asked if they would like to (see 17 Laying Out p.34 and 18 Anointing With Oils p.35.

3.5. I would like the washing / laying out of my body to be carried out only by women / men.

3.6. I prefer my body to be kept at my home after death until the funeral if at all possible. (see 20. Caring For The Body At Home p.37)
Yes / No

3.7. I expressly do **not** want my body to be embalmed unless absolutely necessary / under any circumstances
Tick here

3.8. I am happy for my body to be visited by those who wish to do so (see 21. Visiting The Body p.38)
Yes / No

3.9. I would like only those listed below to visit my body
Yes / No

.....

.....

.....

3.10 I would like to be transported home by my family and / or friends if they are willing to do this (see 22. Transport To And From Home p.39)
Yes / No

Please specify particular people if appropriate

3.11. I would like a vigil to be held around my body on the night before my funeral (see 23. Holding A Vigil p. 40)
Yes / No

4. Burial or cremation

(see Burial And Cremation pp. 65-77)

4.1. I would like to be buried
Yes / No

4.2. I have already purchased / reserved a burial plot (if yes give details of place and any reference number)
Yes / No

.....

.....

4.3. I would like to be buried in

- ☐ a churchyard
- ☐ a cemetery
- ☐ a woodland / green / natural burial ground (for an up to date list contact the Assoc of Natural Burial Grounds on 020 7359 8391).
- ☐ private land (see 39. Burial On Private Land p. 73 and pp 190-191)
- ☐ a family grave
- ☐ a mausoleum
- ☐ the sea (difficult and so only appropriate with very good reason)
- ☐ other (please specify)

Whichever choice you make, please specify the exact location if appropriate

.....

.....

.....

4.4. I would like to be cremated

Yes / No

4.5. I would like cremation to take place at

.....

.....

4.6. After cremation, I would ideally like my ashes to be scattered, interred or used in the following way: (see 97. Scattering And Interning The Ashes pp.168-170 and 98. Turn The Ashes Into An Object pp.171-173)

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Additional notes:

5. Coffins, Urns and Shrouds

(see Coffins, Urns and Shrouds pp. 42-53)

5.1. I would like the following coffin

- ☐ my coffin is already in store waiting [location]

.....

.....

- ☐ a chipboard with veneer coffin
- ☐ a cardboard coffin
- ☐ a coffin made of untreated pine
- ☐ a willow coffin
- ☐ a bamboo coffin
- ☐ a seagrass / banana leaf / papaver coffin
- ☐ a coffin made by friend or relative or local carpenter or artist [specify any details]
- ☐ a solid wood coffin (specify oak, mahogany, poplar etc)
- ☐ an American style casket (lid opens in two halves for viewing)
- ☐ a burial shroud (see 28. Make Or Buy A Shroud pp.52-3)
 - home made
 - a Bellacouche felt shroud by Yuli Somme
- ☐ a burial sheet
- ☐ other (please specify)

5.2. I would like my coffin to be decorated, painted or adorned with other form of decoration) please specify

Yes / No

If so, please specify design or if you leave it to them, and by whom you would especially like it done (see 25. Decorating A Coffin pp. 48-49)

5.3. For my ashes I would like (see 27. A Beautiful Urn p.51)

- ☐ my urn is already in store waiting [location]
-
-

- ☐ a home-made urn, made by
- ☐ a standard crematorium container
- ☐ an urn made of:

see www.heartandsoulfunerals.co.uk/funerals/arranging/coffins-urns-hearses/urns/

- wood
- papier mache (dissolvable in water)
- marble / stone
- pressed clay or mud
- ceramic
- textile

- ☐ other (please specify – any container with a firm lid and a volume of over 2 litres will do the job)
-

6. Where To Hold The Funeral

(see Where And When To Hold The Funeral pp. 54-64)

6.1. I would like my funeral ceremony to take place in

- ☐ a church (please specify below if appropriate)
- ☐ a crematorium (please specify below if appropriate)
- ☐ a crematorium with a ‘double slot’ booked for a longer ceremony
- ☐ my home
- ☐ my garden
- ☐ the cemetery
- ☐ the woodland burial ground
- ☐ other location (please specify below – see 29 Possible Venues p 56)

Please note that a funeral ceremony can be held in any of these places prior to a cremation or burial

Additional notes:

6.2. I do not wish to have a funeral, but instead a direct cremation or burial where the family have an option to hold their own ceremony afterwards.

7. Funeral Arrangers, Directors and Advisers

7.1. The friend(s) or relative(s) I wish to be mainly responsible for arranging my funeral is / are:

.....

I have / have not asked them already.

7.2. I would prefer for the above-named to arrange my funeral without using a funeral director if possible Yes / No

Please note that arranging a funeral without a funeral director takes a great deal of time, information and resource. If you do not want a funeral director to be used, you may want to say why

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.....

.....

7.3. If a funeral director is to be used I would prefer

Heart & Soul Funerals (Green Fuse): Yes / No

other:

Introduction to the funeral ceremony section

(see section The Funeral Ceremony pp 78-159)

It is important in considering your funeral wishes to be aware of the purposes of a funeral ceremony. There are 6 principal ones:

- a. To acknowledge the life of the person in a truthful way and give thanks for that life in its richness and diversity. The person will have meant different things to different people.
- b. To acknowledge the reality of the loss of the person.
- c. To ask for the safe transition of the spirit or soul into whatever is believed to lie beyond, or simply to rest in peace.
- d. To give the bereaved comfort and hope, with inspiration to resume their lives in the knowledge that things have irretrievably changed.
- e. To come together as a community, affirming a sense of shared rituals and identity, honouring the loss of a community member.
- f. To dispose of a body.

If you would like your funeral to have ‘unconventional elements’, it may be best to inform some close relatives, explaining why it is important to you. Very often, once initial resistance has been overcome, the response to a more personal ceremony is positive. You do not want to add to the difficulty of the situation by alienating relatives, and equally you do not want to compromise on the ceremony you want for fear of alienating them. It is also worth bearing in mind that a funeral is principally for those who are left behind, and they will embrace a wide range of views and expectations. If the ceremony is truly about the unique person you are, many diverse expectations will be satisfied.

It may be good to leave room for those left behind to make their own contributions to your funeral ceremony, rather than to stipulate absolutely everything, so they can find their own way to say goodbye to you.

8. My Funeral Ceremony

8.1. I would like to have a funeral ceremony Yes / No

The Ceremony Space

(see A Beautiful Ceremony Space pp. 96-115)

8.2. I would like the ceremony to be held at (see 5.1 above)

8.3. I would like the following decorative theme, decorations, artefacts, seating arrangements, other items to be present in the place at which the ceremony is being held (see a beautiful ceremony space pp.96-115)

8.4. I would like flowers on my coffin Yes / No

I would like flowers in the ceremony space Yes / No
with the following types, colour schemes etc (see pp.98-107 on flowers)

People at the ceremony

8.5. I would like the ceremony to be led by a

- ☐ Green Fuse independent funeral celebrant (reflects any beliefs, views and values)
- ☐ Another independent celebrant
- ☐ a minister of religion
- ☐ a humanist (atheist only with no mention of God or Spirit)
- ☐ a family member

8.6. I would like the main ceremony to be for close family / extended family/ friends / everyone who wishes to attend (see 6. Who Should Come? p.9)

8.7. If the ceremony and the actual burial or cremation are separate, I would like the final committal to be attended by close family / extended family/ friends / everyone who wishes to attend.

8.8. I would like to mourners to be dressed

- ☐ formally
- ☐ informally
- ☐ colourfully
- ☐ with a theme of

The arrival of the coffin

(see The Arrival Of The Coffin pp. 116-122)

8.9. I would like my coffin to be transported to the place of the funeral by:

- ☐ hearse
- ☐ less formal black vehicle
- ☐ less formal silver vehicle (or other colour please specify)
- ☐ formal horse drawn carriage
- ☐ informal horse drawn cart
- ☐ motorcycle hearse
- ☐ the family car (must be long enough)
- ☐ processed by foot from home (less than 300 metres)
- ☐ other

8.10. I would like family and friends to bear the coffin Yes / No
specifically (please state if they have already been asked). You will
need 4 or 6 depending on weight

1. 5.

2. 6.

3.

4.

8.11. I would like photographs / video to be taken as a record
Yes / No

The content of the ceremony

(see The Ceremony Of Words, Music and Ritual pp. 124-159)

8.12. I would like a ceremony in the tradition of

.....

.....

8.13. I would like the following beliefs / philosophy to be reflected in
the ceremony

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8.14. I would like the texts / poems (read by) to include

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8.15. I would like the texts / poems to be chosen by

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8.16. I would like the music, hymns, psalms, songs etc played by / sung by to include [be as specific as you can]

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8.17. I would like the music, hymns, psalms, songs etc to be chosen by

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.....

8.18 If possible I would like a main address about my life given by

.....

and/or

8.19. I would like my family and friends to have time to speak up about me during the ceremony. Yes / No

8.20 I would like the Committal (when my body is committed to burial or cremation) to reflect my views about what happens to us when we die, which are

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8.21. I would like the ceremony to be held in the following language(s)

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.....

8.22. Other rituals I would like are

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8.23. I would like donations to be made to

.....
.....

8.24. Further thoughts / preferences

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9. The Gathering After

(see After The Funeral pp. 160-165)

9.1. I would like a gathering after the funeral. Yes / No

9.2. I would like this to include:

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.....
.....
.....

9.3. I have put money aside to contribute to the costs of the party
(please specify) Yes / No

10. Commemoration

10.1. I would like the following commemoration / headstone / plaque /
monument / tree / artwork / legacy (to be purchased out of my estate).

11. Loose ends

11.1 Things left unsaid to particular people that I would like to say now:

Costing out your funeral

Please ask **your funeral director** to complete this section based on your choices at the current prices at the time (*these will obviously change over time*). This estimate can then be used as a basis for a pre-payment plan, with which we can provide you, if you wish.

Funeral cost estimate

To bring the person who has died into care	£
Care at the funeral director premises (av. 10 days)	£
Advice, arrangements and paperwork	£
Transporting the coffin to the funeral	
Hearse	£
MPV / other	£
Limousine / transport for family	£
Coffin (specify type)	£
Bearers (you can provide family bearers instead)	£
Funeral director on the day	£
Dressing the body of the person	£
Visiting body of the person	£
Embalming (rarely necessary)	£
Collection and delivery of ashes	£
Urn	£
Total for funeral advice, care and transport	£
Funeral celebrant or religious minister	£
Cost of burial	£
Cost of cremation	£
Doctors fees for cremation	£
Flowers	£
TOTAL	£

Signed by:

Name

Signature

Date

Witnessed by (if required):

Name

Signature

Date

Any further changes to the preceding information shall be written here or annotated on each page, and signed here and on each page.

Heart & Soul Funerals

Green Fuse Bereavement Care



Award winning funeral directors
for funerals across south and central Devon

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