PLAN THE SERVICE TYPE(S)

- Will there be a **funeral service** (with the body present)?
  - Where? __________________________
  - When? __________________________
  - Create a list of invitees
  - Make and send invitations
- Will there be a **graveside service**?
  - Where? __________________________
  - When? __________________________
  - Create a list of invitees
  - Make and send invitations
- Will there be a **memorial service** (usually at a later date)?
  - Where? __________________________
  - When? __________________________
  - Create a list of invitees
  - Make and send invitations
## CHOOSE A FUNERAL HOME

- **COMPARE OPTIONS**

  - **Option 1**
    - Friendliness of staff
    - Location and convenience
    - Grounds and facility
    - Positive reviews
    - Price and options
    - Other
  
  - **Option 2**
    - Friendliness of staff
    - Location and convenience
    - Grounds and facility
    - Positive reviews
    - Price and options
    - Other
  
  - **Option 3**
    - Friendliness of staff
    - Location and convenience
    - Grounds and facility
    - Positive reviews
    - Price and options
    - Other

  - **Option 4**
    - Friendliness of staff
    - Location and convenience
    - Grounds and facility
    - Positive reviews
    - Price and options
    - Other
PLAN THE FUNERAL EVENTS

❑ WAKE
  ❑ Where? ______________________
  ❑ When? ______________________
  ❑ Create a list of invitees
  ❑ Make and send invitations

❑ VIEWING
  ❑ Where? ______________________
  ❑ When? ______________________
  ❑ Create a list of invitees
  ❑ Make and send invitations

❑ VISITATION
  ❑ Where? ______________________
  ❑ When? ______________________
  ❑ Create a list of invitees
  ❑ Make and send invitations

❑ FUNERAL DECOR
  ❑ Entry table
    ❑ Photograph
    ❑ Flowers
    ❑ Guest book
  ❑ Inside of venue
    ❑ Flowers
    ❑ Photograph and other decor for memorial table
    ❑ Personalized accents
SERVICE ELEMENTS

Participants:
- Officiant: ________________________
- Pallbearers: ____________________
- Eulogy: _________________________
- Prayers: _________________________
- Readings: ________________________
- Musicians: _______________________
- Videographer: ___________________
- Sound tech: _____________________
- Greeters: _________________________

Specific elements:
- Musical Prelude
- Introduction or Words of Welcome
- Reading of Obituary
- Eulogy or Tribute
- Brief Informal Tributes (Open Mic)
- Musical Selections
- Slideshow or Video Tribute
- Thank you and Acknowledgements
- Viewing of Deceased (open casket)
- Paying Final Respects (closed casket)
- Closing and Invitation to Graveside Service
- Closing and Invitation to Reception

Religious Elements
- Prayers
- Scripture Readings
- Hymns
- Sermon
- Benediction
RECEPTION

- Where? __________________________
- When? __________________________

Food

- Catered
- Potluck
- BBQ
- Favorite dishes made by family
-Crudités or hors d’oeuvres
- Dessert only
- Reserve a restaurant or buffet

Reception decor

- Move items from service to reception
- Flowers
- Flower petals on tables
- Table centerpieces
- Photos (in frames or loose on tables)
- Slideshow or video tribute
- Memorial table
- Personal trinkets and hobby items on display
- Memorial cards for attendees to write down stories and special memories

FORMAL MOURNING PERIOD

- Discuss / decide who will be included
- Length of time
- Explain your observance to others, since this practice is becoming less common
PLAN THE FINAL DISPOSITION

- EMBALMING for viewing
- BURIAL
  - Prior to a later memorial service
  - Immediately after the funeral
  - Several days after the funeral at a separate committal service
- CREMATION
  - Direct cremation before a service
  - Cremation after the service
  - Cremation through the funeral home
  - Cremation directly through the crematorium
- GREEN BURIAL
  - Check for green burial options in your area
  - Green cemeteries
  - Death doula
- ALTERNATIVE METHODS

  - ______________________________
  - ______________________________
  - ______________________________
  - ______________________________

CHOOSE A FINAL RESTING PLACE

- BURIAL
  - Ground Burial at Cemetery
    - Cemetery plot
    - Casket
    - Casket vault or liner
    - Headstone, monument, or marker
  - Mausoleums, Crypts, Tombs
    - Mausoleum
- Crypt
- Lawn Crypt
- Tomb
- Other: _______________________

- **Natural & Eco-Friendly Burial Options**
  - Burial location:
    - Burial on private property
    - Green cemetery
  - Buried in:
    - Shroud
    - Blanket
    - Eco-friendly willow or seagrass casket
    - Simple wooden casket

- **CREMATION**
  - **Burial**
    - Burial in a cemetery
      - Urn
      - Urn vault (almost always required)
    - Burial in private property
      - Urn
      - Urn vault (optional)
  - **Scattering**
    - Ground scattering
    - Traditional scattering
    - Casting
    - Trenching
    - Raking
    - Water scattering
    - Water burial
    - River scattering
    - Air scattering
    - Green burial
  - **Keep in a Cremation Urn**
Where to buy

- Use the cardboard or plastic box the remains come in from the crematorium
- Purchase an urn from the funeral home
- Purchase an urn online
- Make your own urn
- Commission a local artist to make something unique

Types of urn materials

- Wood
- Glass
- Metal
- Ceramic
- Stone
- Plastic

Consider dividing the remains for multiple uses:

- Bury
- Scatter
- Keep in an urn (large or small “keepsake” urn)
- Divide among family members
- Place a tiny amount in jewelry
- Plant in a memorial tree urn to grow a tree
We hope you found the Funeral Planning Guide and this checklist to be very helpful!

For further in-depth information on each of these topics and more, browse our articles in the Funeral Resources and Planning Ahead categories.

To shop for the best cremation urns and memorials on the market, visit our retail store at Urns Northwest.