



PREPARING A FUNERAL CEREMONY

A guide to some of the information required by your celebrant.

The check-list below is something I use to gather the information I require in order to compose and conduct a funeral ceremony. Some of it is procedural, such as whether the coffin is being carried in, but most of it is aimed at finding out about the person involved. You may wish to prepare some notes on the topics listed or you may simply feel happier taking a bit of time to talk over the subject with whoever is likely to be making your funeral arrangements.

The duration of the ceremony is usually in the order of 20 minutes though they can last up to 40 minutes, particularly if there are additional speakers! We normally have a pause for reflection during which music can be played but a moment of silence may appeal more. It is worthwhile thinking of any anecdotes or stories about yourself that are worth recounting as they add a lighter and more personal touch to the proceedings.

Finally, I should just ask that you don't try to write your own ceremony, that is the celebrant's job. Each of us has our own way of writing and presenting the story of your life and so reading someone else's words can make for a very stilted and awkward ceremony! Above all, this is a celebration of your life, let us make it so.

PERSONAL DETAILS

FULL NAME
 KNOWN AS / NICKNAME
 MAIDEN NAME
 DATE & PLACE OF BIRTH
 PARENTS
 BROTHERS & SISTERS
 ADDRESS
 SPOUSE / PARTNER
 MARRIGE DATE & PLACE
 HOW DID YOU MEET?
 CHILDREN / GRANDCHILDREN
 OTHER RELATIVES / FRIENDS

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

PRIVATE FUNERAL?
 FUNERAL DIRECTOR
 PLACE OF FUNERAL CEREMONY
 INTERMENT / DISPOSAL OF ASHES
 THANKS: FRIENDS, NEIGHBOURS ETC.
 DONATIONS
 RECEPTION / TEAS
 ENTRY PROCEDURE
 ENTRY & EXIT MUSIC
 POETRY / READINGS
 MUSIC DURING CEREMONY

ABOUT YOU

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES
 PRIMARY EDUCATION
 SECONDARY EDUCATION
 UNIVERSITY / COLLEGE
 APPRENTICESHIP
 MILITARY / NATIONAL SERVICE
 OCCUPATION
 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS
 SPECIAL SKILLS
 CAREER HIGHLIGHTS
 PARENTHOOD
 SPECIAL FAMILY EVENTS
 HOUSE MOVES
 RETIREMENT / DAILY ROUTINE
 INTERESTS / HOBBIES / SPORTS
 MUSIC / TV / BOOKS / FILM / ETC.
 HOLIDAYS / TRAVEL
 SOCIAL ACTIVITIES / CLUBS / SOCIETIES
 VICES!
 CHARACTER / PERSONALITY
 SENSE OF HUMOUR
 ANECDOTES
 PHILOSOPHY
 POLITICS