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## FUNERAL SERVICE INFORMATION

There are many decisions during the funeral process. Some of the decisions need to be handled more quickly than others. The following items have to be addressed prior to a visitation/service. We have included this information so that you may give it some thought now. If you are unsure as to when these items are needed, please call the funeral home so that we can give you a better time frame.

### CLOTHING

The funeral home usually suggests that the clothing be brought at the time of the arrangement conference. This allows us to verify what a person is to wear, label it, and discuss any changes or ways it is to be worn. Often the family may decide to launder the clothes first if needed. Please check with the cleaner as to when the clothing would be available. We all look more like ourselves in the clothing we wear every day. Usually for a man a suit is desired. However some families want a more casual look reflecting the person's life. Ladies usually wear dresses or pants suits. In the event someone does not have appropriate clothing, the funeral home has a selection of suits and dresses available. When choosing clothing please keep in mind there are some specific instances where long sleeves and a high neck may be needed. Sometimes IV's and other medical therapies necessitate using more concealing clothing to cover bruising and discoloration. Many times the use of a scarf or sweater can assist in this matter. A full set of underclothing is also most appropriate. Shoes or slippers are optional.

### OTHER PERSONAL EFFECTS

People look much more like themselves wearing their jewelry and it is fitting that they do wear it during viewing. Most items can be brought with the clothing and we will place it. Some items can be brought in at the beginning of visitation or services. We will be glad to assist you in placing these items or you may do this yourself. We will go over with you which items will be removed prior to closing the casket. If you are selecting a funeral with cremation, all jewelry will be removed and either given to you or placed with the cremated remains if you desire. Please keep in mind there may be other visitations and visitors at different times than yours and as such very valuable items and family heirlooms should be limited in their exposure and should be carefully watched by all family members. A recent photo of the person is also desired. Glasses are another important item. If they were worn everyday, then they should strongly be considered. Some families include photographs, letters or colorings from children, athletic accessories, or anything else that would remind people of someone's lifestyle. If you have any questions about

bringing certain items or their placement, please ask for assistance.

#### PLANNING OF FUNERAL SERVICE

Planning the funeral service can be as simple or as detailed as you wish. We suggest meeting with the clergy prior to visitation or services to decide on type of music, scripture readings etc. Some priests or ministers may also do this at the funeral home during visitation. Some churches have their own planning booklet for reading and music selection. Please check with your clergy person for details or resources in this matter.

#### ONLINE CONDOLENCES

Your loved one's death notice will be listed on the funeral home's website at no additional cost. Family and friends may sign the guest book as well as upload photos to an album. Photos, once submitted, must be approved by the funeral home. You may download the obituary to your social media page as well. If you wish to place a paid death notice or obituary in a local newspaper, there will be a cost from the newspaper. The notice will also appear on their online obituary page.

#### FLOWERS

The family will make arrangements with a local florist for the pieces they wish to send. Generally, 3-4 pieces (or as many as space allows) are taken to the cemetery. Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery only allows two floral pieces at the cemetery. Prior to services, we will discuss which pieces are to go to the cemetery and which ones to save for you. After the committal or gathering after the services, we invite you to come back to the funeral home to pick up those flowers you desire to take home.

#### PALLBEARERS

Many families opt for relatives or close friends to be pallbearers. Usually 6 is the ideal number, however depending on each family circumstance 4 or 8 may be appropriate. The pallbearers will carry the casket out of the funeral home, into and out of the church (if a church service is desired), and to the grave at the cemetery. Please keep in mind distance of the grave from the road at the cemetery, number of steps if any at church, and weather conditions. Some people may like to be a pall bearer but are unable to lift. As long as other pallbearers can compensate, 1 or 2 people may actually hold and not lift at the handles. Women are also capable of being pall bearers. If a family is unable to provide pallbearers, a chapel service at the cemetery may be appropriate. If this is a cremation service at a church or cemetery, a member of the family may be asked to carry the urn.

#### PICTURES OR COLLAGES.

We have easels and tables available for the display of memorabilia. Many families bring in already framed pictures or collages for the easels. We recommend using a thicker type of poster board so it will not bend on the easel. We would appreciate it if you would let us know before visitation if you need these items. Photo boards are available for purchase with us. If you purchase them, complimentary use of two frames is included.

### DVD LIFE TRIBUTES

We are able to take 75 photos of your loved one or family and make them into a 6-10 minute DVD. Instrumental music is added. The initial cost is \$200 for up to 75 photos (Additional \$150 for over 75 photos) and each additional DVD is \$20.00. A TV screen is provided by the funeral home during visitation or memorial service. Families may bring their own media in as well, such as a jump/flash drive or CD-R, with photos on. **The funeral home will NOT play any DVD, provided by the family, containing music. This is a violation of music industry copyright laws.**

### VETERAN OPTIONS

With a copy of the veteran's Honorable Discharge, Veterans are eligible for certain benefits. Every honorably discharged veteran can receive a U.S. Burial Flag, Government Headstone and Military Funeral Honors. These can only be applied for if an Honorable Discharge is obtained. Military Funeral Honors consists of two military personnel from the decedent's branch of service folding the flag, playing of Taps and presentation of the flag to the next of kin. This can be done at the Cemetery or Church or funeral home if the service is for a cremation. Other benefits would be on an individual basis and apply only if the deceased veteran was: receiving disability or a pension from the Armed Forces or died in a V.A Medical Facility.

### BURIAL / DISPOSITION WITH CREMATION

According to the State of Ohio, disposition of the body takes place with cremation. Cremated remains hold a different legal status. The cremated remains can be buried or placed in a niche at a cemetery. A family may hold the cremated remains until another family member dies and then bury them together. Scattering can be done with permission of the property owner. Cremated remains can be transported out of state. A temporary container is best used when transporting via airlines or U.S. Mail as federal regulations dictate x-ray screening. An urn may be purchased at the final destination.