

# This document sets out the funeral wishes of

.....

Date .....

This document, although not legally binding, sets out my wishes in the event of my death. In putting this together I acknowledge that the people I have left behind will need to put their own thoughts and feelings into my funeral. For this reason I hope that my wishes will be followed as much as possible but understand that some changes may need to be made to help and support my friends and family through my death.

In completing this document, if you don't have a preference in any particular category, please leave blank or add your own comments as you see fit. If you have more to record in any particular area please add additional sheets, making it clear which area you are adding to.

I ..... (name) have / have not prepared a legally binding will.

My will is held at .....

Your will may contain previous wishes that you set out when you prepared it. Please consider making amendments to your will if you have changed your mind about your preferred funeral arrangements, otherwise a conflict may arise when the time comes.

MY NEXT OF KIN IS.....

Address .....

Contact details .....

MY EXECUTORS ARE

1) Name .....

Address .....

Contact details .....

2) Name .....

Address .....

Contact details .....

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

I have a prepaid plan Yes / No

Appointed funeral director .....

Contact details .....

Plan number .....

I have a savings plan in place in a bank or building society Yes / No

Bank or building society details .....

Account and sort code .....

I have life assurance which will be used to cover my funeral expenses Yes / No

Insurance company details .....

Policy number and details .....

CARE OF MY BODY

I have made arrangements for my body to be used for medical research Yes / No

Details of arrangements made .....

Contact details for medical school .....

.....

Please ensure that my body remains undisturbed for the following amount of time for religious or spiritual reasons:

.....

Depending on where I die I understand that each establishment will have its own procedures but I would like the following person / people to wash and dress me when the time comes.

.....

I would prefer a man / woman to wash me after my death.

I would / would not like to be washed after death.  
I would / would not like to be dressed in different clothes

My preferred clothes would be .....

I would like / would prefer not to be taken home after my death, if possible.  
(if this occurs in a hospital or hospice)

I am / am not happy for people to come and see my body after death.

I would prefer if only the following people see me after death.

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

#### CHOICE OF COFFIN OR SHROUD

(shrouds can mostly only be used for burial in the UK)

I would like the following type of coffin/shroud to be used for my body:

.....

If possible I would like the following objects to be placed with me in my coffin:

.....

I would like my coffin to be decorated in the following way:

.....  
.....

#### URN

From most crematoria, a person's ashes would be placed in a sturdy box or a plastic container but these can be transferred to a variety of urns or other receptacles for burial, scattering or just keeping if preferred.

I would like my ashes to be placed in.....

WHERE TO HOLD THE FUNERAL

I would / would not like to have a funeral ceremony or service before my body is either buried or cremated.

A funeral ceremony or service can take place almost anywhere within reason, traditionally they are held in crematoria or churches, mosques etc but you can hold a celebration or ceremony in your back garden if you like or there are a range of other options, maybe research this in your local community if you would prefer somewhere more unusual.

I would like my funeral ceremony or service to be held at:

.....

I would like my cremation or burial to take place at:

.....

ORGANISING THE FUNERAL

I would like the following people to arrange my funeral

.....

.....

I have / haven't asked them already.

I would prefer not to use a funeral director, this is because .....

.....

.....

Or my preferred funeral director is .....

Contact details .....

I have / have not spoken to this funeral director about my plans.

## THE FUNERAL CEREMONY

A funeral ceremony has many functions, here are what we believe are the main ones.

- To give the bereaved comfort and an opportunity to reflect on and share their loss
- To acknowledge the life of the person in a truthful way and give thanks for that life in its richness and diversity
- To acknowledge the loss and ask for the safe transition of the spirit or soul into whatever is believed to lie beyond
- To give the bereaved the hope and inspiration to resume their lives in the knowledge that things have irretrievably changed.

If you would like your ceremony to contain ‘unconventional’ elements then it’s best to speak to someone beforehand so that this is known and understood to prevent resistance when the time comes.

I would like the ceremonial space to be decorated, arranged, lit in the following ways.

.....  
.....

I would / would not like flowers to be put on my coffin.

I would / would not like flowers to decorate the funeral space.

Details .....

I would like my ceremony to be led by (friend, family member, celebrant, religious minister)  
.....

I would like the mourners to be dressed (formally, informally, colour scheme?)  
.....

I would like my coffin transported by (hearse, family car, horse drawn hearse etc)  
.....

I would like the following people to bear my coffin

.....

.....

.....

Or I would like professional bearers to bear my coffin yes / no

In terms of recording my ceremony I would like (video, photos, audio)

Details .....

In terms of the ceremony I would like it to reflect the rituals and practices of the following religion or philosophy.

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In particular I would like to include.....

.....

.....

I would like to include the following texts or readings

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I would like the following poem(s) read

.....

.....

Or I would like ..... to choose poems to include

I would like to include the following music or songs

.....

.....

.....

I would like the following people to choose music for my funeral

.....

I would / would not like my life story to be included in the ceremony.

(if you have written about your life and would like this to be included, you could attach a copy to this document)

I would like ..... to give the main address about my life.

I would like / prefer not to have friends and family speak about me.

I would like the committal (where my body is committed to its natural end) to be conducted in the tradition of:

.....

Other rituals I would like are .....

.....

#### DONATIONS

I am happy for people to bring flowers or donate to charity after my death  
Yes / No

I would like it if people were asked to give to charity. Yes / No

I would like it if people gave to the following charity / charities after I die.

.....

#### WAKE / GATHERING AFTERWARDS

I would like a wake / party / gathering after the funeral Yes / No

I would like the following details to be included .....

.....

.....

I have put money aside for this purpose Yes / No

COMMEMORATION

I would like the following commemoration to be put in place after my death

.....

I would like my ashes buried or scattered at .....

FINAL WORDS

After I die I would like to say these final words to people

To .....

.....

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To .....

.....

.....

To .....

.....

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To .....

.....

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To .....

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Please attached an additional sheet(s) if you want to.

Other things I have thought about and would like to include are .....

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Sometimes it's not the practical things that people value the most, if you want to include your favourite book that you would like to pass onto people, your favourite recipe, maybe even a favourite joke! Why not think about that and write it down, it will no doubt summon your spirit and who you are to people who love you after you die.

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.....  
This is my funeral wishes document.

Signed by .....

Print name .....

Date .....

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

Amendments made (date) .....

Signed by .....