



PARTY ON

DIY Funeral Guide

When a loved one passes some families choose to make arrangements themselves, and plan a DIY funeral.

There are several reasons why they may choose to opt for a DIY funeral service. Some prefer to have a less formal celebration instead of a traditional affair. Others may want greater involvement in planning every aspect of their loved one's funeral, as an expression of how much they loved them.

They may choose to organise all or part of the funeral themselves. They may call on a funeral director for certain services - such as looking after the person's body in between their death and the funeral - or for help with funeral transport, or buying a coffin.





Whatever your reason may be for arranging a DIY funeral, it should be given considerable thought.

Some find it stressful and overwhelming to organise everything themselves, especially during an already difficult time. It helps to have plenty of support from family and friends - being able to call on someone for advice may be invaluable.

Before you choose to have a DIY funeral, be sure that you can handle the arrangements, both practically and emotionally.

HOW TO ARRANGE A DIY FUNERAL

A DIY funeral allows you to put together a personal and unique funeral for your loved one, and gives you greater control over arranging the type of service or celebration, committal and the other aspects such as transport, music, flowers, coffins or caskets, that feels right.



The key to a successful DIY funeral lies in preparation, planning and getting plenty of help when you need it.

If you want to organise a DIY burial or cremation, there are many things to consider.

You will need to organise each element of the service, transport and committal. This will require speaking directly with providers, such as crematoriums, religious organisations and coffin manufacturers.

You'll also need to ensure you have the right documents and paperwork for a cremation or burial to go ahead.

This guide to arranging a DIY funeral will take you through some of those practical steps.



**Holding a
funeral at
home**

You can hold all or part of someone's funeral at home, from the service itself, to scattering their ashes in the garden after their cremation at a crematorium.

It is also possible to bury someone in their back garden or private property owned by them, provided that it satisfies certain environmental criteria if you choose to have a DIY or home burial.

If someone has died at home, or you are bringing them home from the place where they died, you'll need to be aware of the steps to take when someone has died. These steps include registering the death and ensuring you have all the other legal paperwork you need for a cremation or burial to go ahead.

DIY FUNERALS AND MORTUARIES

If you are arranging a DIY funeral, one important thing to be considered is where you will keep your loved one's body until their funeral. While funeral directors have specialist refrigeration facilities available, undertaking a DIY funeral yourself means you'll need to find a suitably cool place, to help delay the natural processes that begin to change our bodies when we die.

Therefore, it would be sensible to compare and find a local funeral director that's happy to provide a particular service or facility you need, as you plan a DIY funeral.

If the person has died in hospital, you will need to arrange to collect their body from the mortuary, or find a funeral director who can do this for you. You'll need to make arrangements with a private mortuary, funeral home with facilities, crematorium, or have suitable transport to them home, or to the funeral venue.

Planning a DIY funeral

If your loved one had any personal wishes regarding the type of funeral or service they'd have wanted for themselves, now is the time to consider them.



You might have talked about this together, or they may have left instructions in their will – or written details of their funeral wishes.

If they have not left any instructions or there are no clear wishes, then it is up to you to decide how you want to mourn or celebrate their life.

Having the right DIY funeral



There are many options to consider if you are planning a DIY funeral such as a woodland burial, a traditional burial, a cremation, or even a burial at sea. You might also consider a memorial service after a cremation, that includes an ashes scattering with some form of special ceremony. There are lots of creative ideas for scattering ashes and examples can be found on our website. If you have decided to go ahead with a DIY cremation, you will need to book a **crematorium**.

If they were a nature lover or would have loved the idea of being laid to rest amongst the trees, then a green funeral may be the best choice. If you are considering a green burial or cremation, you can search for an eco-friendly burial site.

COFFIN, CASKET OR SHROUD?

You'll have to choose and buy a coffin, casket, shroud or urn and arrange to collect or have this or have it delivered to you.

If you've chosen a natural burial ground for the funeral, you'll need to be mindful of eco-friendly and biodegradable green choices. If you are planning ahead for your own funeral, you can even attend a DIY coffin-making club!

A big trend these days are bespoke coffins that can be fashioned in the shape of your loved one's interest or hobbies. Again you can find further details on our website.





FLOWERS AND FLORAL TRIBUTES

If you decide on floral tributes for your loved one, a local florist can advise on the right type and style of funeral flower arrangement. Or buy your own cut flowers, pick garden blooms and make your own coffin display or wreath.

ORGANISING TRANSPORT

You will also have to consider how to transport your loved one if they are having a burial or cremation at a cemetery, crematorium or woodland burial ground.

The coffin could travel by traditional or alternative hearse, but even a regular van or estate car can be used as long as the coffin is carefully secured within. In addition you could have a bespoke vehicle in their favourite team colours. We have included further details on our website.





WHO CAN OFFICIATE A DIY FUNERAL

If you wish to have a service for your loved one, you might consider looking for an independent funeral celebrant to lead and officiate the service. You, a family member or friend could even lead the funeral yourselves.

ARRANGING THE VENUE FOR A WAKE OR RECEPTION

If you decide to have one, you'll need to find and book a venue near the burial ground or crematorium, with the facilities and space to accommodate the funeral party. This could be held at home, a church hall, an outdoor gathering at a natural burial ground, or even at a nearby pub or club. You may choose to celebrate their life at the reception with a themed party, fancy dress, themed funeral cakes, music and video. At Party On we take this burden from you and can arrange a bespoke and fun celebration that truly reflects your loved one's life.

Funeral directors traditionally post an online obituary with details or a newspaper notice. But many people also let others know about a funeral via social media. If you're doing it this way, you may want to ask a friend or relative to coordinate this for you.

HELP WITH FUNERAL COSTS FOR A DIY FUNERAL

If you are responsible for making funeral arrangements for your loved one, you will have to cover the full amount, although you may be eligible for help with funeral costs, unless they planned for their own DIY funeral by taking out a funeral plan, or pre-paid funeral with a local funeral director.

Funeral plans generally exclude the cremation fee or cost of burial, so this is another cost to consider. If someone planned their own funeral, they may also have left details of what they wanted- and costs to cover this in their will. If they didn't have a plan, but left a will - the funeral costs may be recovered from their estate.

If you are on benefits, you may be eligible to apply for the Funeral Expenses Payment, a means-tested state benefit that covers certain funeral costs.

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