If I choose cremation, do I need to secure the services of a Funeral Director?

We highly recommend working with a Funeral Director. This professional will ease the strain upon family members by coordinating all the details and thus contributing to your wishes being carried out with dignity and honor. Even if cremation is your desire, a Funeral Director handles many details that are not taken care of by family members. Attempting to save money by not using a Funeral Director is likely to cause confusion and frustration at a time when you most need guidance and support.

Should I make pre-arrangements with a Funeral Director?

Making the decision to pre-arrange some aspects of your funeral and/or burial is helpful. An appointment with a Funeral Director in advance of death is a wise step to help you decide what you and your family need from the many services available. If you are a family member caring for a dying loved one, making an initial contact now with a Funeral Director can be very helpful and will lessen the decisions and demands you’ll face upon death.

How soon after death does a funeral or memorial service take place?

Traditional funeral services are generally held within three to five days following death, thereby allowing appropriate time for family members and friends to gather for the service. Memorial services can be held at any time. However, waiting for weeks or even months after a death will have a bearing on finding a sense of closure, and this will impact the grief work that follows the death of a loved one. Therefore, it is recommended that a memorial service be held within a few weeks after death.

Guide for the Funeral of:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date completed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Where would you like your funeral to be held?

(Ex. Funeral home, community center, place of worship, etc)

Who would you like to officiate (lead) your funeral?

(Ex. Funeral director, friend, family member, religious leader. Please include contact information)

Readings (please list your choices of readings, poems, or sacred texts below, and say WHY you chose them)

Please circle one:

I would like the officiant to read.

I would like a friend or family member to read (please list name & contact information below)

Musicians/Soloists (please list any preferred musicians, with contact information, subject to availability)

Musical Selections (please list any songs to be sung or played. Please also indicate why this song(s) is important to you)

I desire to have a friend or family member give a eulogy: YES NO

If yes, please list their name and contact information below:

(Please ask them to limit their remarks to 10 minutes.)

I desire to have a time of remembrance and sharing at my funeral: YES NO

If yes, please indicate a friend or family member who would be willing to share first, with contact information:

Other wishes (please describe):