

Arranging a Funeral

The timeline of arranging a funeral is different from other instances when there has been a death as a result of a crime.

You might have to wait longer than usual to be able to proceed with the funeral.

You will be able to arrange a funeral once you receive a Death Certificate from the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service and have registered the death. This might take some time, depending on the investigation.

Planning the Funeral

You can decide whether you'd like to take over all the arrangements yourself, or hire a funeral director.

A funeral director takes on the responsibility to arrange the funeral based on your wishes.

You can contact a few different funeral directors in your area in order to get an estimate and find the best option for you.

Because of the ongoing investigation by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, cremation may not be possible. To find out more about the reasons behind this, see the 'Post-Mortem' section.

Things You Can Do Now

- Find out if the person who has died has left a will
- Find out if they left any pre-paid funeral arrangements
- Decide how much you intend to spend on the funeral
- Decide how you want the service to look - is it going to be public or private? religious/non-religious?

Funeral Directors Code of Conduct

The funeral director

- Will treat you in a courteous, sensitive and professional manner
- Will not exploit or pressure you
- Will respect the dignity of the person who died at all times
- Will respect the confidential nature of the information that you give to them
- Will provide you with full and detailed information, including prices, on the range of services available
- Will do their best to ensure that you are fully informed and understand the range of services and any fees that you might have to pay
- Will provide you with a written confirmation of the funeral arrangements
- If you make any amendments, the funeral director will inform you of any changes in the cost

Don't Hesitate to Ask the Funeral Director Questions

- What services do you provide?
- What do your charges include?
- Are any items included in your quote optional or are there alternatives?
- When do we pay the bill?
- Do we have to pay a deposit?
- How much input can we have into the ceremony?
- Are you comfortable delivering the choices we have discussed?
- Who are we going to be working with?
- Is it going to be the same person during the whole process?

Ways You Can Inform People About the Funeral

- You can make a list of close family and friends who you want to invite directly
- You can place a notice in your local newspaper
- You can create a social media page in their memory and share it with people they knew
- When inviting people to a public funeral, include the date, time and place of the funeral

You can use this space to write down what you might want to say when you are contacting a funeral director.