

Registering the death

- All deaths should be registered with a Registrar of Births and Deaths in the area where the death occurred within 5 days unless the coroner is involved.
- You can make an appointment on line at www.kent.gov.uk or by calling 03000 41 51 51 or we can assist you with this.

Direct cremations

In recent years people's attitudes towards funerals have begun to change. Although most of us opt for a cremation when the time comes, not everybody feels comfortable at the crematorium. This is why we are now offering a completely new option whereby the cremation takes place non-attended first. This not only makes the funeral more affordable, but it also gives families more freedom and time to plan something truly personal and opens up so many more venue choices. Moreover, many people actually find it much easier to remember someone's life without the presence of a coffin. If this is something that you like the sound of and would like to know more, we would be very happy to explore choices with you to help you plan a meaningful ceremony.



There is such a thing as a good funeral...

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What to think
about when
arranging a
funeral





Most families that come to us have never arranged a funeral before and it can seem an insurmountable task at the worst time.

We have compiled a few things to think about to help you start deciding what kind of service would suit you best. This can be done in advance - providing a starting point for family conversations, or of course at the time you are affected by a death.

Service details

- What type of funeral would you prefer? Burial, natural burial, cremation, direct cremation? (see overleaf for details about direct cremations)
- Would you prefer something traditional or a less formal service?
- Would you prefer a religious or non-religious service? Or perhaps a mixture of the two? We can arrange for a minister or a celebrant (someone who can create a person-centred ceremony) for you or of course you could use your own.
- Do you have a venue in mind? Church, crematorium or other venue?
- Do you know how many people are likely to attend the service?
- When would you like the funeral to take place? Sometimes there are dates in the family to avoid. The usual required time for arranging a funeral is around 10 days to 2 weeks.
- Would you like to publish the funeral details in an obituary notice in the paper?
- Do any close relatives or friends want to be involved in the funeral arrangements? Would any of them like to participate in the service in any way? Eulogy, readings, poems, music...
- Are there any pieces of music that are meaningful to you? Most services have a piece of music to enter to, perhaps a hymn or two, or a piece for reflection in the middle and a last piece to exit, but there is no set rule. We are here to guide you through all of this so don't worry if you don't know.
- If you are singing hymns - would you like to have an organist to play the music? At the crematorium you could also have recorded organ music (with or without singing) at no extra cost.
- Would you like any photos displayed at the funeral?
- Would you like a condolence book? We can organise personalised ones.

- Would you like printed order of service booklets for the funeral? We can get them printed for you with photos of your choice. The booklets make good keepsakes and can also be sent to those who can't attend.
- Would you like help organising flowers for the funeral? We work closely with two local ladies whose designs are wonderful and who we trust.
- Would you like friends and family to send flowers or would you prefer them to donate to a charity of your choice?
- Would you prefer us to come to you to make arrangements? We can do this.

Care of the person who has died

- Do you want to choose some clothes to dress the person who has died? Or we can provide a cotton gown or shroud.
- Do any family members want to help with washing and dressing the person who has died?
- Do you want to come and see the person who has died in our chapel of rest? We can arrange this with you by appointment.
- Do you want to have the person who has died brought home or into church before the funeral?