

The Good Funeral Guide is the UK's only trusted, completely independent, not-for-profit information resource for funeral advice.

We are here to help you arrange the funeral you want.

This leaflet is designed to give you essential guidance. Loads more detailed and comprehensive information, advice and ideas can be found on the Good Funeral Guide website: [www.goodfuneralguide.co.uk](http://www.goodfuneralguide.co.uk)

The Good Funeral Guide will help you:

- if you are organising a funeral now
- if you are thinking about your own funeral

We'll show you how to:

- make good choices
- get best value for money
- find suppliers of services / merchandise
- create a funeral you're proud of

We know who the best funeral directors are.

On our website we have a list of **Recommended Funeral Directors**. We have visited every one of them, met the people who work there and seen how they look after those in their care. We would trust them all with someone we love.

We are wholly independent

The Good Funeral Guide is completely independent of the funeral sector and is dedicated to supporting, empowering and representing the interests of dying and bereaved people living in the UK.

## IN BRIEF

### TAKE CHARGE

You are in control, do what feels right for you

### FOCUS ON THE MEANING

It's about what you say and do, **not** how much you spend

### THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT THE FUNERAL TO ACHIEVE

Set your goals – you have just one chance to get it right

### TAKE YOUR TIME

There's no rush (except for some religions)

### ASK A FRIEND TO HELP

Especially if you've never done this before

### KNOW YOUR BUDGET AND SHOP AROUND

You could easily save thousands of pounds

### FIND THE RIGHT PEOPLE

Do some research (or get a friend to do it for you) - not all funeral directors are the same

### USE THE INTERNET

For information, ideas, goods and services

### DO IT YOUR WAY

There's no such thing as 'the right way'

### DO WHAT YOU CAN

Playing your part, however big or small, is vital

### WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE

Be proud of what you have achieved

# Organising a funeral?



## You need to read this!



[www.goodfuneralguide.co.uk](http://www.goodfuneralguide.co.uk)

The Good Funeral Guide is a not-for-profit social enterprise company,  
Community Interest Company number 7818343.

## It's your choice

Funerals are important. The recent rise in direct cremation - the 'no funeral' option - concerns us greatly, because we believe funerals matter. We see a funeral ceremony as an important step towards integrating the loss of the person who has died, and we are passionate about encouraging everyone to be as involved as they feel they can be.

Our society is changing rapidly. Structured religious funeral ceremonies are far less common than secular, person-based ceremonies – there is no such thing as a 'normal' funeral anymore.

### Here are some options:

- **No funeral.** Nothing. The coffin is taken for cremation or burial. No ceremony. Nobody attends.
- **A private ceremony** to which only certain people are invited.
- **A personalised funeral** designed by you to reflect the person who died.
- **A traditional funeral**, a formal, often processional ceremony.
- **A funeral extravaganza.** Jazz band, horse drawn hearse, fleet of limousines.
- **A funeral ceremony at which the person who has died is not present.** This could take place anywhere you like. Similarly, a memorial or farewell event following a cremation, with or without the cremated remains present. You can hold this anywhere you want; at any time you choose.

## You are in control

If you choose to employ a funeral director, **you are in charge.** Funeral directors are there to help you create and achieve the funeral you want and need.

**You may prefer not to hire a funeral director.** If you are considering this, we offer advice and guidance in the 'Do It All Yourself' section of the Good Funeral Guide website.

**Do your research** before selecting a funeral director to help you. See the '**Recommended Directory**' on the Good Funeral Guide website. Look at the company's website. Do you like the look and feel of them?

**Shop around** or ask a friend to do so on your behalf. Don't feel under pressure to decide quickly, this is an important decision. There's no embarrassment about interviewing several funeral director companies before choosing one.

**Think about what you want the funeral to be like.** See the '**Planning the Funeral**' page on the Good Funeral Guide website.

**Here are a few things to begin thinking about that might help you start to plan a funeral ceremony:**

- Do you want the person who has died to be buried or cremated? Whereabouts?
- Do you want a ceremony? Before or after the burial or cremation? Do you want the coffin present at the ceremony?
- Is there someone you would like to lead the ceremony? Do you want them to write it for you or just act as coordinator?

- What really matters to you about this ceremony? What do you need from it?
- How can you create a ceremony that meets your needs?
- How can choices about elements of the funeral (venue, coffin choice, vehicles, content of the ceremony etc.) help you achieve this?
- Are environmental issues important to you? How can you minimize the environmental impact of your choices?
- What kind of ceremony do you want? Do you want the ceremony to have religious content? What elements do you want included in the ceremony?
- Where would you like the ceremony to take place? It doesn't have to be at a crematorium even if the person is being cremated.
- Who would you like to attend? Just family, family and friends? Or anyone who knew the person?
- What is your budget? Can you accomplish everything you would like without overstretching yourself?

**Remember, there is no right or wrong.**

**You can create the funeral that you need.**