

Style your funeral

A funeral can be as elaborate or as simple as you want. The style of funeral you favour will be determined by the tastes and values of those organising it and by the way people feel about the death. Take a pencil and tick what describes you.

Tradition

Would you describe yourself as

- ☐ a traditionalist
- ☐ someone who likes tradition with a modern twist
- ☐ a modernist
- ☐ an innovator
- ☐ a mould-breaker—a bit of an anarchist

Formality

Thinking of the sense of occasion you want to create, do you want the funeral to be

- ☐ formal
- ☐ Smart
- ☐ informal, spontaneous

Ceremonial

Do you like ceremonial? In a funeral this might include a horse-drawn hearse, a procession, a military salute, a particular and elaborate ritual.

- ☐ Lots
- ☐ Some
- ☐ None

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Mood

The mood of the funeral will mostly be determined by how people feel towards the person who has died. Do you expect the mood to be

- Angry
- Guilty
- Shocked
- sombre and regretful
- one of acceptance
- grateful, happy and celebratory

Participation

What part would you like those who come to the funeral to play? In evaluating this, ask yourself what part you think they'd like to play.

- Anyone who wants should be able to say or do what they want, and we will make time for this
- We want only invited people to take part
- The ceremony will be led by just one person

Poetic or plain?

You may want the funeral to appeal to the **minds** of those who come, or you may want it to appeal to their **senses**, or you may want it to do **both**. Which?

- Rational. Prosaic. Logical. Plain words, plain speaking, down to earth, no nonsense.
- Sensuous. Spiritual. Evoking a sense of mystery and wonder through poetic writings, images, music and ritual.
- A bit of both.

Structure

Do you think the funeral ceremony ought to be

- firmly structured, with no deviation from that structure
- structured, but with some scope for spontaneity
- unstructured and wholly spontaneous

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Cost

Do you want the funeral to be

- costly
- mid-range
- as inexpensive as possible

Environmental

Do you want the funeral to

- make the smallest possible impact on the environment
- keep its environmental impact to an acceptable minimum
- go ahead without any consideration at all for its ecological impact