



# Final Ceremony Guide

Congratulations on deciding to plan ahead for your end-of-life! You are well on your way to peace of mind and relieving your family from making difficult decisions.

This Final Ceremony Guide is designed to help you plan an end-of-life ceremony that is meaningful to you and reflects your personal preferences. With this guide, you can sort through the tough decisions so your loved ones aren't forced to plan a funeral while they are grieving.

Your final ceremony plays an incredibly important role in how your life is honored and how your loved ones will heal. Undecided on a specific component? No problem! Just skip it for later and keep going.

Not sure yet what kind of final ceremony is right for you? The options and personal touches are endless! Take our helpful quiz: [How do you want to be remembered?](#)

This Guide includes a checklist to help you keep track of your progress as you go, as well as a workbook to help you document your decisions.

## Checklist

- I've made decisions on my final ceremony service
- I've made decisions on my final remains
- I've made funeral arrangements with a funeral provider
  - Yes
  - No
- I have funds set aside for my final ceremony
  - Yes
  - No
- Optional – Any additional information and details that I want for my final ceremony service

# Workbook

## IMPORTANT DECISIONS FOR:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Decide on the service type and events:

Choose the type of service you want to have:

- a traditional faith-based funeral service
- a traditional service (non-religious)
- a personalized memorial service
- a minimalist memorial service
- funeral service in my own home
- a values-based ceremony (ex. Green funeral)
- a celebration of life party
- no service
- other: \_\_\_\_\_

Details:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Choose whether you want any other funeral events. I would like to have:

- a viewing before my funeral
- a wake before my funeral
- a visitation before my funeral
- a reception or gathering after my funeral or memorial service
- an event that observes my religion's mourning customs
- other: \_\_\_\_\_



Details:

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Circle the words that you'd like to inspire your ideal funeral service:

- Eco-friendly
- Celebratory
- Unexpected
- Religious
- Private
- Traditional
- Simple
- Creative
- Nature-themed
- Elegant

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

When it comes to my final ceremony, the most important thing to me is:

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**Decide on how you would like your remains handled:**

Choose the way in which you would like your body to be handled:

- a ground burial
- a cremation
- a cremation with scattering of ashes at: \_\_\_\_\_
- a green burial
- donate remains to science
- other: \_\_\_\_\_

Details:

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**OPTIONAL - Choose the personal touches (complete only if you are having a ceremony):**

Here is how I would like to be dressed (for open-casket options only):

\_\_\_\_\_.

I would like my end-of-life service or ceremony to be held at

\_\_\_\_\_.

If this location is not available, my second choice is

\_\_\_\_\_.

If I want a service or ceremony, the person I would like to officiate is

\_\_\_\_\_.

If this person is not available, my second choice is

\_\_\_\_\_.

If applicable, would like the following people to serve as pallbearers (if applicable):

- Name: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Contact: \_\_\_\_\_
- Name: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Contact: \_\_\_\_\_
- Name: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Contact: \_\_\_\_\_
- Name: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Contact: \_\_\_\_\_
- Name: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Contact: \_\_\_\_\_
- Name: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Contact: \_\_\_\_\_



I would like the following people to speak at my end-of-life service or ceremony:

- Name: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Contact: \_\_\_\_\_
- Name: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Contact: \_\_\_\_\_
- Name: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Contact: \_\_\_\_\_
- Name: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Contact: \_\_\_\_\_
- Name: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Contact: \_\_\_\_\_
- Name: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like the following readings to be delivered at my end-of-life service or ceremony (if applicable):

Title/Author/Source

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

I would like the following songs, hymns, or pieces of music to be played:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_



If applicable, I would like to be honored by donation to one of the following charities:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

I would like the following photographs/images to be featured:

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I would like the following to be included/referred to in my eulogy:

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I would like the following additional details included (i.e. detailed instructions on which flower preferences, color schemes, foods, drinks, photographs to be featured, etc.).

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## Next steps:

All done? Pat yourself on the back! You've just completed a huge step on your end-of-life planning journey. One step closer to peace of mind! Check off the Final Ceremony Guide on your Planning Ahead Checklist, and let's move on to any other Guides you're ready to complete.

Don't forget to store this completed checklist safely and securely, where loved ones could access it when needed.