



# The Natural Death Society

## Checklist Before Arranging the Funeral

Instructions for the funeral arrangements of.....

### What is to happen to the body of the person who has died?

#### Burial

At: .....

New single grave /New double grave /Second interment in existing grave \* (delete as necessary)

\*Owner's name / Grave No: .....

#### Cremation

At: .....

### Do you want to have a ceremony?

- No ceremony at all
- Funeral ceremony with coffin present before burial or cremation
- Memorial ceremony afterwards

Location: .....

Day /date & time preferred:

..... am / pm

..... am / pm

..... am / pm

### Who will lead the ceremony?

- Family
- Minister / priest / faith leader
- Secular celebrant
- Other
- Undertaker's choice

Name and contact details of preferred person: .....

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Tel: .....

e-mail: .....

**How long approximately would you like the ceremony to last?** (Crematoria offer limited time availability at their venues, if the body is to be cremated check whether extra time needs to be booked).

➤ Half an hour or less

➤ Up to an hour

➤ More than an hour

**Will you want any of the following to be provided for the ceremony?** If so, by whom?

	➤ Family	➤ FD	➤ Details
Coffin or Shroud?			
Pall bearers			
Transport of body to venue			
Transport of family to venue			
Orders of service			
Flowers			
Recorded music			
Live musicians			
Multimedia presentation			
Photographs of ceremony			
Balloons			
Doves			
Condolence Book			

	Family	FD	Details
Catering			
Other – please list			

**What is your preferred dress code for the ceremony?**

- Informal including undertaker & staff?
- Formal “
- No preference

**Do you want a procession to the ceremony?**

- Yes, led by the vehicle carrying the body
- Yes, led by the undertaker ahead of the vehicle
- Yes, led by family members ahead of the vehicle
- No procession
- No preference

**What part would you like the undertaker to play in the ceremony?**

- Master of ceremonies – in charge of everything
- Supporting the celebrant who is in charge of everything
- No part at all

Other – please specify .....

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**Would you like donations to be requested in lieu of flowers? If so, by whom should they be collected?**

- Family
- Undertaker

Nominated charity: .....

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**Would you like a notice to be placed in the newspapers giving details of the funeral ceremony?**

- Yes, the family will organise this
- Yes, the undertaker will be asked to organise this

Please specify which newspaper(s)

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**What are your instructions about the care of the person who has died?**

**Following the death:**

- The body is to remain at / be brought home after death
- The body is to be taken to the undertaker’s premises after death and remain there
- The body is to be taken to the undertaker’s premises after death but brought home before the funeral
- No preference

**Who will lay out the body?**

- Family members / friends
- Any of the undertaker’s staff
- Undertaker’s staff of the same sex as the deceased
- No preference

**The person who has died is to be dressed in the following prior to the funeral:**

- Clothing supplied by family
- Gown supplied by undertaker
- No clothing
- No preference

**The body will be dressed by:**

- Family members / friends
- Any of the undertaker’s staff
- Undertaker’s staff of the same sex as the deceased
- No preference

### Where will the laying out of the body take place?

- At home
- At the undertaker's premises
- No preference

### Do you wish the body to be embalmed?

- Yes, I permit the body to be embalmed
- No, embalming the body is forbidden
- No preference

### The following may / may not be carried out in the course of caring for the body:

➤ Washing	Permitted	Forbidden	No preference
➤ Appliance of cosmetics	Permitted	Forbidden	No preference
➤ Closing of the eyes by use of eye caps	Permitted	Forbidden	No preference
➤ Closing of the jaw by suturing	Permitted	Forbidden	No preference
➤ Styling of hair according to your instruction	Permitted	Forbidden	No preference
➤ Shaving	Permitted	Forbidden	No preference
➤ Clipping of nails	Permitted	Forbidden	No preference
➤ Placing or removal of jewellery	Permitted	Forbidden	Not applicable

### If the care of the person who has died is to be left to the undertaker, will a contract of agreement be signed as to the stipulations of the next of kin (see appendix)?

- Yes, essential
- Not necessary

### If the body is to remain with the undertaker, will visiting be required by the family and friends?

- Yes
- No
- Not known

### Administration:

#### Who will take care of the necessary paperwork?

- Family
- Undertaker
- Family with assistance from the undertaker
- No preference

**Sundry notes:**

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**If the body is to be cremated:**

**Do family members wish to witness the coffin entering the cremator?**

- Yes
- No
- No preference

**Are there instructions as to the disposal of cremated remains?**

- Yes  
Please detail: .....
- No
- No preference

**Will a casket or urn be required?**

- Yes, family will provide to the crematorium
- Yes, undertaker to provide
- No, the container supplied by the crematorium will be sufficient
- None required as scattering will take place at the crematorium

**If the body is to be buried:**

**Who will dig the grave?**

- Family
- Staff of the cemetery / natural burial ground / churchyard

### **Who will fill the grave?**

- Family
- Staff of the cemetery / natural burial ground / churchyard

### **Do you wish any contracted gravediggers to be present or out of sight at the burial?**

- Present and in view
- Present and out of view

### **Do you want any contracted gravediggers to wait until the mourners have left the cemetery / natural burial ground / churchyard before filling the grave?**

- Yes
- No
- No preference

### **Do you want information and literature about memorial options from the undertaker?**

- Yes please
- No thank you, the family will liaise with the cemetery / burial ground ourselves