

Funeral Planning Guide

Planning a funeral can be a complicated process when you factor in the emotional stress involved in the death of a loved one. It is suggested that arrangements be made ahead of time, when family members are less emotional and more objective when making necessary decisions. Use this tool to guide you as you consider funeral arrangements.

When making arrangements, here are areas of cost to consider. They are: funeral home; cemetery; casket; cremation; obituary; gifts and memorials; flowers; faith facility and the luncheon.

Funeral Home*

- Burial items: casket/cremation permit and urn
- Death certificate
- Guest registry book
- Prayer cards
- Acknowledgement cards
- Use of facility/service fees
- Hearse

*See enclosed funeral home location list.

Cemetery*

- Grave
- Vault (grave liner)
- Opening and closing of casket
- Grave marker

*If the deceased is a veteran, a veteran's cemetery provides burial at no cost.

Casket

- Caskets are available through the funeral home and alternative outlets, such as Costco and Impressive Caskets, among others.

Cremation

- Cremation process
- Cremation container/urn

Obituary

- Chicago Sun-Times
- Chicago Tribune
- Local newspapers

Gifts and Memorials

- See enclosed materials

Flowers*

- Casket spray
- Two end pieces

*All floral arrangements are optional, but suggested.

Faith Facility

- Participants
- Clergy/officiate
- Church
- Organist/soloist
- Service (readings; music/hymns; pall bearers)

Luncheon*

- Location
- Menu

*A luncheon is optional, but suggested. Funeral directors can assist with luncheon locations and planning. Some churches will provide a luncheon for a donation.