

Letter of wishes

Believe in children



Barnardo's

The funeral arrangements

My next of kin is (name, address and phone number) _____

The friend(s) or relative(s) I would like to be mainly responsible for arranging my funeral is/are

- I have a pre-paid funeral plan, the details of which are held in the following place

- I do not have a pre-paid funeral plan.
- I would like a funeral director to assist in arranging my funeral (you can specify which one you would like).
- I would not like a funeral director to assist in arranging my funeral. I would instead prefer my funeral to be arranged by

- I would like my death announced in the following publication(s)

- I would not like my death announced in a publication.
- I wish to donate my body and/or my organs. My wishes are registered with the NHS Organ Donor Register (tel: 0845 6060 400)
- I do not wish to donate my body or my organs.
- If a post-mortem after my death is required, I would like my next of kin to give consent.
- If a post-mortem after my death is required, I would not like my next of kin to give consent.

I would like to be transported to the funeral in a

(e.g. hearse)

I would like to be cremated/buried/other _____

(you might like to describe what you would like to happen to your body)

If you would like to be cremated

After cremation, what I would like to be done with my ashes is

If you would like to be buried

I have a burial place in mind, the details of which are

I do not have a burial place in mind.

The funeral service

- I would like a funeral service.
- I would not like a funeral service.

I would like my funeral service to take place at one of the following:

at a church (you might like to say which one)

at the following venue (indicate the name and location)

Note: if being cremated, the funeral service will take place at the crematorium.

- The form of service I would like is _____
(you may choose a traditional religious ceremony or a more alternative, personal ceremony)
- I don't mind what the form of service is.
- I would ideally like the service to be led by _____
- I don't mind who leads the service.

I would like a funeral service to take account of the fact that my religion / spiritual belief / philosophy is

I see my service, ideally, as one of the following:

- a small family affair
- family and friends
- all comers welcome.

Amongst those I would like invited who might otherwise be overlooked are:

(A list of names, addresses, email and/or phone numbers might be useful here)

I would ideally like _____

to be the bearers of my coffin.

I don't mind who the coffin bearers are.

- If possible, I would like a main address about my life given by _____
- I would like the person leading the service to give a main address about my life.

In terms of floral tributes, I would like one of the following:

- flowers brought to my funeral
- one flower per person
- no flowers
- donation instead to a chosen charity, which is _____
- family flowers and a donation by others to a chosen charity, which is _____

- other (please state) _____

The music, hymns, psalms, songs, etc, I would like include: _____

(You can be as specific as you like. You may like to include the names of those who you would like to play or sing them)

The texts / poems I would like, include: _____

(You can be as specific as you like. You may like to include the names of those who you would like to read them)

Other rituals I would like to see at this time include: _____

(e.g. single flowers placed in coffin, scarf or other identifying symbol placed on or in coffin)

Party or gathering

- I would like a gathering after the funeral.
- I would not like a gathering after the funeral.

The form I would like this gathering to take is as follows: _____

(Think about whether you would like it indoors or outdoors; the location; any personal ritual you would like to happen; food and drink etc)

Memorial service

- I would like a memorial service some _____ months after the funeral.
- I would not like a memorial service after the funeral.

The form I would like this memorial service to take is as follows:

(Think about whether you would like it indoors or outdoors; the location; any personal ritual you would like to happen; food and drink etc)

Commemorations

I would ideally like the following memorial or commemoration:

- headstone (you could suggest the wording for this)
 - entry in memorial book
 - planting a tree (you could suggest where and what kind of tree)
 - Tribute Fund in my name in support of a chosen charity, which is
-

- other (please state) _____
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- I would not like a memorial or commemorative tribute.
 - If possible, I would like there to be a ritual or remembrance on the anniversaries of my death. Ideally the form this could take would be
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- I would not like there to be any rituals or remembrance events.

Things left unsaid

Often people like to write letters, make audiotapes or create memory boxes to be opened or listened to after their death, expressing their feelings for their loved ones. A survey conducted by leavealetter.com found that 57 per cent of respondents would like a letter to contain a personal message of love and encouragement which will provide comfort and guidance at a difficult time. You might like to consider writing such a letter or a similar action and keep copies of those things with your Letter of Wishes.

Addendum

Natural / DIY funerals

These days there are an increasing variety of options for those who do not want a traditional funeral. If you are looking for alternatives, the following websites and telephone numbers may be helpful as a starting point. Please note that this is NOT a comprehensive list and is intended just to help you think about what you would like.

www.funeralsuk.com

www.greenendings.co.uk

www.goasyouplease.com/alternative.cfm

www.heavensabovefireworks.com

www.ifishoulddie.co.uk

www.naturalendings.co.uk

www.nativewoodland.co.uk

www.orchidcivilceremonies.co.uk

www.peacefunerals.co.uk