

# The Crossing

A GUIDEBOOK FOR  
THE FINAL FAREWELL

A set of funeral plans and wishes for

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CREATED BY ..... DATE .....



## WHAT DO YOU WANT TO HAPPEN TO YOUR BODY?

Here is a list of things you can do in the U.K.

- Burial – in a coffin, shroud or mushroom suit
- Cremation
- Donation to Medical Science (Be aware that you need to sign up for this in advance with your local medical school)

You can also have your body shipped overseas. You might do this if you want to be buried in another country or perhaps because you have something else in mind, such as plastination or cryonic freezing.

## COFFINS AND SHROUDS

If you are being buried or cremated, you will probably need a coffin or a shroud. Some crematoriums don't allow shrouds, so you'd need to check.

Which coffin or shroud would you like?

Do you want things placed inside the coffin – for example photographs, a favourite toy or a piece of jewellery? For cremation, you'll need to check with the crematorium as some objects aren't allowed.

## CLOTHES

If you would like your friends and family to view your body after you've died, you might want to think about what you would wear? It might be a favourite outfit, a uniform, traditional dress or something relating to your faith.

## PALLBEARERS

Do you want professional pallbearers or friends and family?  
You generally have between 4-6 pallbearers.

## INVITATIONS

How many guests would you like to attend? Is there anyone you really want to be there... or anyone you don't?

How would you like to let people know?

- A funerary notice in the paper?
- Email?
- Social media?
- By phone?
- Invitations by hand or post?

## WOULD YOU LIKE A PRE-FUNERAL CEREMONY?

Here is a list of some things that people might want to do.

- Viewing of the body at the chapel of rest
- Washing the body
- Wake
- Coffin decoration
- Domestic ritual or observance

## WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE THE FUNERAL TO TAKE PLACE?

## CELEBRANT

Would you like a ceremony so your friends and family can say goodbye? Who would you like to lead this?

## PEOPLE WHO MIGHT HELP

Who would you like to help carry out your wishes? Is there a specific person or an organisation? Is it someone who might need to be paid? Is there anything in particular you would like them to do? (Example)



## TRAVEL

How are you going to get there?

## OBJECTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Would you like anything placed on top of the coffin or in the grave?

Some people would like their coffin decorated – draped with a flag, flowers laid on top by guests etc. There are lots of options, so you could get creative.

## MUSIC

If you'd like music at the ceremony, should it be live or recorded?  
Are there particular songs or pieces of music you would like to have played?

## READINGS

Would you like an order of service or programme for the ceremony?

Are there any particular readings or prayers you'd like at the funeral?  
If so, is there anyone in particular you'd like to read them?

## FLOWERS

Would you like any flowers or other decorations at the ceremony?  
If so, are there particular flowers or colours you'd like?

Would you like a florist to arrange the flowers?

## DRESS CODE

How would you like people to dress? You might want to think about colours, formality or any items particular to your community interests or faith.

## IS THERE A COLLECTION?

If so, who does the money go to?

## INTERMENT

Does the burial or cremation happen somewhere different to the funeral?

If you're choosing burial, do you want professionals to fill in the grave, close friends or family or all the guests?

## ACTS OF REMEMBRANCE

Is there a post-funeral act of remembrance – for example tree-planting, balloon release or toast? Please note, some of these options are better for the environment than others.

## POST FUNERAL GATHERING/CELEBRATION/WAKE

If you want a gathering after the ceremony, where will it be?

## REFRESHMENTS

Are you going to give people food and drink? If so what and who prepares it?

## DESIGN A MENU



## MOURNING PERIOD

Is there a ritualised mourning period or set of daily observances that you would like to be carried out, that you feel might be of benefit to people?

## URNS

If you've chosen to be cremated, what would you like your ashes to be stored in?

(This may depend on whether you want your ashes to scattered, placed in the home, turned into an object, or placed in an urn that can be launched into water and set on fire a bit like a Viking burial.)

WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR ASHES TO BE KEPT  
OR SCATTERED?

IS THERE A MEMORIAL SERVICE OR MARKING RITUAL  
(SOMETIMES CARRIED OUT ON AN ANNIVERSARY)?

This might involve scattering ashes, headstone unveiling, tree  
planting or even just meeting with friends and family.

WOULD YOU LIKE A PERMANENT MEMORIAL OR TO  
LEAVE A LEGACY?

AND LASTLY...

Are there any words you'd like to leave behind for your loved ones?

