

Everybody Needs Somebody Sometime

Especially if you haven't given any thought about your funeral. If you don't plan for it, who will? Somebody will have to step in to make decisions and arrangements, as there are many details that need to be planned. Your "Somebody" will need to...

Notify:

Coroner
Funeral Director
Cemetery or Memorial Park
Clergy
Relatives & Friends
Pallbearers
Insurance Agents
Unions and Fraternal Organizations
Newspapers

Select:

Cemetery Property
Funeral Service
Casket
Vault or Outer Container
Clothing
Flowers
Music
Thank You Cards
Time & Place for Visitation
Time & Place of Funeral

Provide:

Vital Statistics about the deceased
Addresses of all people to be notified
Arrangements for out of town visitors

In Addition to:

Answering sympathetic phone calls, cards, letters, and greeting friends and relatives when they call... arrangements must be made to pay for any of the following!

Doctor Nurses Hospital Ambulance
Funeral Cemetery Memorialization
Clergy Transportation



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& Cremation Services
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Michigan City, IN 46360
(219) 874-4214

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& Reception Centre
606 E 113th Ave
Crown Point, IN 46307
(219) 663-2500

Geisen Funeral &
Cremation Services
7905 Broadway
Merrillville, IN 46410
(219) 769-3322

Geisen Funeral Home
& Cremation Services
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(219) 996-2821

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124 Tasks that Must be Done on the Most Difficult Day of Your Life

On the day you are more overwhelmed than you have ever been, on the day when you would just like to sit down and cry, you suddenly find a very daunting task facing you. You've just lost a loved one and somebody has to make the final arrangements. The following is a list of 124 actions that must be taken immediately following death, a list that would be difficult even on a good day. Many of these items can be planned, arranged and/or paid for before the time of need.

A. Secure Vital Statistics

(required for documents)

1. Full legal name, complete address, telephone number
2. Social Security Number
3. Religious name (if any)
4. Date of Birth
5. Place of Birth
6. Marital status
7. Name of spouse (if married)
8. Spouse's maiden name (if wife)
9. Citizenship (American, Canadian, Mexican, etc)
10. Father's name
11. Father's birthplace
12. Mother's name and maiden name
13. Mother's birthplace
14. Number and full names and addresses of all children, grand children, etc.
15. Veteran's serial/service number (if ever in military)
16. Date and place of service
17. Date of discharge
18. How long at current residence/former residence(s)
19. Education attainment
20. Occupation, job title, nature of work and employment history.

21. Location of work place, address, telephone number

22. Family origin

B. Pay some or all of the following

23. Estate/inheritance taxes
24. Funeral expenses
25. Purchase of family burial estate, mausoleum, or cremation niche
26. Permanent memorialization
27. Monument/marker engraving
28. Funeral director
29. Clergy
30. Organist and vocalist
31. Florist
32. Obituary
33. Clothing
34. Long distance telephone
35. Food
36. Transportation
37. Doctors
38. Nurses
39. Ambulance
40. Hospital/nursing home
41. Medication and drugs
42. Current and urgent bills

C. Collect documents and paperwork

43. Will (check for special wishes)
 44. Prepare legal papers, permits, etc
 45. Birth certificate/legal proof of age
 46. Citizenship papers
 47. Social Security card or number
 48. Marriage license
 49. Veteran's discharge certificate
 50. Insurance claims (life, health, accident, property, auto)
 51. Disability claims
 52. Bank books and list of accounts
 53. Other financial records
 54. Property deeds
 55. Cemetery deed or proof of ownership
 56. Auto titles or bill of sale
 57. Income tax returns, receipts and cancelled checks
- ## **D. Decide and arrange within a few hours**
58. Make cemetery arrangements
 59. Secure interment space and get exact location of burial and disposition
 60. Arrange for opening and closing of the grave/mausoleum/niche

61. Secure endowment care
62. Arrange gravesite committal service
63. Secure use of cemetery chapel for committal prayers
64. Decide on embalming and other preparation of deceased
65. Choose restorative art
66. Select a funeral home
67. Location of funeral service
68. Choose service type (religious/fraternal/military, etc.)
69. Time and place for visitation and services
70. Arrange for special religious services
71. Provide information for eulogy
72. Select casket (open or closed)
73. Select outer burial container and/or vault
74. Select urn/niche space (if cremation)
75. Provide vital statistics about deceased to newspaper
76. Choose clothing for deceased
77. Pick out jewelry and glasses for deceased
78. Select cosmetology and hairdressing for deceased
79. Selection scriptures and readings
80. Schedule clergy to officiate
81. Choose a grave marker
82. Select memorial marker

83. Select charitable contributions for memorials in memory of the deceased
84. Choose register book, memorial prayer cards
85. Select pallbearers
86. Floral arrangements and transportation

Before and after the service

87. Select music
88. Schedule organist, pianist, vocalist
89. Arrange for funeral coach
90. Arrange limousine for family and pallbearers
91. Arrange funeral car for family members
92. Select clothing for you and children
93. Decide who will look after children and/or pets
94. Clean loved one's home
95. Locate extra chairs
96. Transportation for family and guests
97. Review and sign all paperwork
98. Answering innumerable telephone calls, emails, letters, etc
99. Set meetings with funeral director, lawyers, clergy
100. Arrange transportation and lodging for out of town guests
101. Acknowledge those who helped in a special way

102. Decide how many certified copies of death certificate to order
103. Provide food for family and out of town guests
104. Gather items for memento display or memorial board
105. Decide on memorial video production, pictures, music, etc
106. Arrange for writing Thank You notes

E. Plan to notify as soon as possible

107. All family members
108. All relatives
109. All friends
110. Minister and church
111. Funeral director
112. Pallbearers
113. Cemetery
114. Doctor
115. Employer of deceased
116. Employers of relatives not going to work
117. Organist, pianist, vocalist
118. Newspaper regarding notices
119. Social Security Administration
120. Veterans Administration
121. Insurance agents
122. Religious, fraternal, civic organizations and unions
123. Attorney, accountant, financial planners and executor of estate
124. Credit card companies



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STOP AND SMELL THE ROSES

"Stop and smell the roses" is a cliché that is widely used. We are all familiar with its meaning, which is, to take time to appreciate a situation or slow down and pay attention to or enjoy what is going on around you. This phrase can also be used just as a gentle reminder to take a few minutes for yourself each day.

STOP AND PLANT THE ROSES

Of course there have to be roses to smell. And roses would indeed be beneficial at a time of stress or anxiety. Consider funeral preplanning as planting your roses, as it ensures that all the decisions have been made, all wishes and desires fulfilled, and all funeral financial obligations have been met. That's the way it should be, you, your friends and loved ones, able to focus on each other, to share the memories and to celebrate a life well lived and to avoid having to make decisions while coping with grief and loss.



WHY WOULD YOU PREARRANGE A FUNERAL?

Today, more individuals and families are making the decision to prearrange their funerals than ever before. Because of various factors such as inflation, fewer extended family members living close by, and other changes in our society, planning your own funeral can make a lot of sense. Preplanning allows you to let your wishes be known and to reduce stress for friends and family at an emotional time. And finally, perhaps the most thoughtful reason of all, it shows you care and it relieves your loved ones of the financial responsibility.

WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO PREPLAN YOUR FUNERAL?

The best time to begin making your prearrangements is now, while you're thinking about it. People who do say that prearranging their funerals is smart financial planning and gives them added peace of mind knowing they aren't leaving this burden to family members. By taking time now to collect cost information and calmly making choices related to your own funeral arrangements, you'll be protecting your family against the strain of having to make these decisions at a time of extreme emotional stress.



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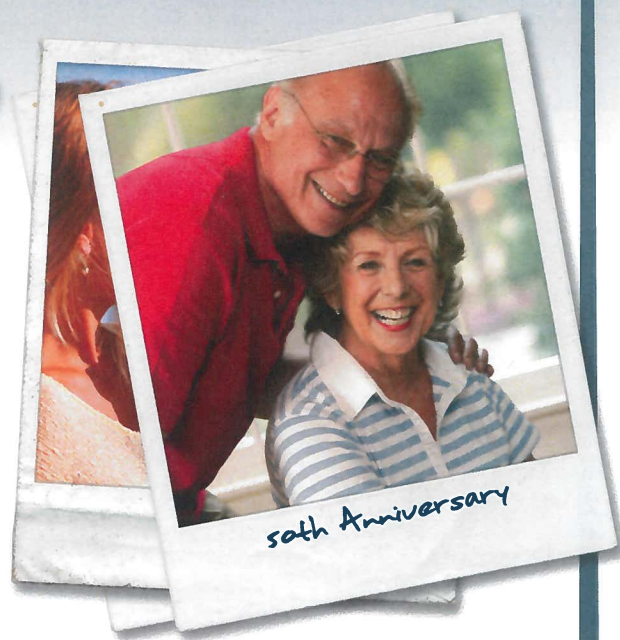
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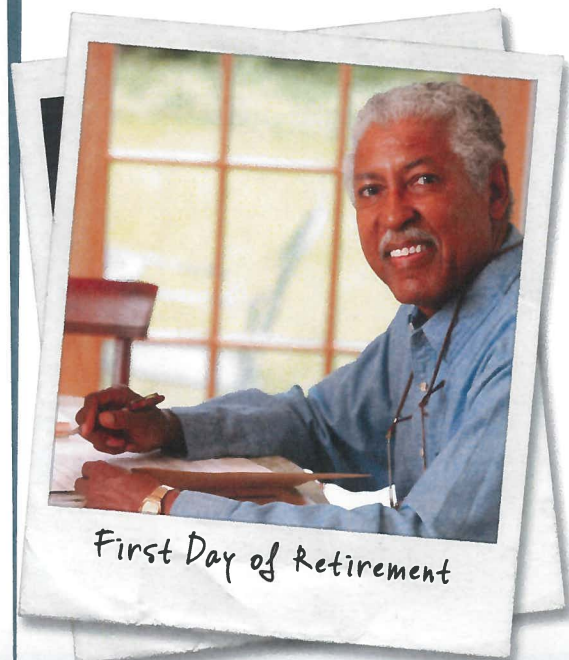
Why do caring people Pre-arrange?

How many things have you insured against in your lifetime? You have auto insurance. You're a good driver and don't think you need it, but the state didn't give you a choice. When you bought your home, the lender insisted that you insure it and the contents in case of fire. The actual chances of it catching fire are pretty slim. You have medical insurance and you may or may not need it, but without it, you'll never find a doctor who will take the time to see you. We even insure against disaster, and store food, water, blankets, flashlights, and all kinds of survival goods just in case.

Oddly enough, all the things we insure against may never happen. But, when one talks about final arrangements, the only **certainty** in life, no one thinks to insure the inevitable. It only makes sense, for so many reasons.



The Benefits of Pre-arranging



- It takes the burden off your loved ones.
- It allows you to put your house in order.
- You can select every aspect of your funeral now, guard against inflation, and ensure that it will be the funeral you want.
- Provide peace of mind, knowing you are not making anyone responsible for your last wishes.
- You customize your plan and take advantage of the benefits of insurance.
- You plan together, not alone.
- No emotional overspending. Your wishes will be adhered to.



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Major Life Events

Births

Baptisms

Birthdays

Graduations

Promotions

Retirement

Marriage

Christenings

Anniversaries

Employment

Relocations

Honors

These events require **considerable planning** to ensure a positive impact on the participants and others involved. It seems absurd to think of waiting until the last minute to plan for these important, significant events.

However, what about planning for death?

Death is, of course, unpleasant to discuss and potentially more devastating than any other event and has the greatest impact on the most people. Yet, we don't plan for it.

Usually, we don't handle major life events by doing nothing and leaving the outcome to chance.

Why do we fail to plan for what is perhaps the most devastating life event of all – death?



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