



# Final Wishes

**H**ave you thought about how you'd like to be remembered? Do you know where you'd like your final resting place to be? And, importantly, if you have, did you tell anyone about it? Documenting your final wishes for a funeral and burial or cremation is important.

In this section, you will find handouts that help guide you through the process of thinking about and writing down your final wishes.

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## Section Contents

- My Wishes Questionnaire
- Funeral Planning Checklist

## My Wishes Questionnaire

The answers to these questions will assist you in determining your next steps, along with any documents you will need to carry out your wishes.

**What concerns you the most as you think about your legacy?**

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**Who do you want to inherit your assets and personal property?**

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**Who do you want to make financial decisions on your behalf if you are unable to speak for yourself?**

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## My Wishes Questionnaire *(Continued)*

Who do you want to make health decisions on your behalf if you are unable to do speak for yourself?  
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Who do you want to take care of your minor children? Pets?  
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What medical treatment do you want, or don't want, if you are unable to speak for yourself?  
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## My Wishes Questionnaire *(Continued)*

What are your wishes on the disposition of your remains and the type of memorial, if any?

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Who do you want to share your end-of-life plan with?

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Notes

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# Funeral Planning Checklist

Task	Person Completing or N/A	Notes
<b>If a burial is chosen:</b>		
*Select a cemetery		
*Select a casket		
Select a burial vault		
*Select a memorial grave marker and inscription		
*Decide if any jewelry will remain with the deceased or be returned to the estate		
If interested in funeral/burial assistance, speak with funeral, cemetery, or crematory service provider		
<b>If a cremation is chosen:</b>		
*Decide if it will be done before or after the service		
*Select cremation container		
*Decide on final disposition of cremains (urn, scattered, etc.)		
*If scattering remains, check local ordinances on any regulations		

\*Tasks that can be discussed/decided in advance of a death

## Funeral Planning Checklist *(Continued)*

Task	Person Completing or N/A	Notes
<b>Choose the type of service (if having): traditional, memorial, etc.</b>		
*Select a funeral home or where the service will be held		
*Choose if there will be a visitation (decide if family visitation or public visitation)		
Compose obituary		
Decide about preparation and embalming		
*Decide whether service will be opened or closed casket		
*Choose clothes that the deceased will wear		
*Choose who will lead the service and those who will participate		
*Select an individual to give the eulogy		
*Select readings		

\*Tasks that can be discussed/decided in advance of a death

## Funeral Planning Checklist *(Continued)*

Task	Person Completing or N/A	Notes
*Select music/musicians, if needed		
*Select photographs of the deceased to be displayed		
Choose floral arrangement(s)		
Select a memorial folder and acknowledgement cards		
*Choose a location for the reception following the service		
*Decide how refreshments will be provided (i.e., catered, restaurant, family members, etc.)		
*Decide if memorial donations will be chosen and if so, include a mailing address		

\*Tasks that can be discussed/decided in advance of a death

**Adapted from:**

**Saying Farewell: A guide to assist you with preplanning and with the death and dying process (pages 34–46)**

<https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/a15cb3f2-59f6-4633-aec3-f8d8fe4edaa6/resource/5798935c-0d25-4d7e-8468-91dc85d80774/download/saying-farewell-dying-process-guide.pdf>

**Funeral Planning Checklist**

<http://mnfuneralplanning.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/funeral-planning-checklist.pdf>

