



death care coach

with KATIE DUNCAN





FUNERAL PLANNING CHECKLIST

INSTRUCTIONS:

Use this as a reference of to-do's and preparations for the funeral or other arrangements. Check the box when a task is complete. Use the Funeral Planning section under 3 Death Prep Reflections to write details of decisions, location, time, etc.

TO DO's:

- ☐ Consider the disposition of the body
 - ☐ Burial vs Cremation vs Aquamation vs Body Donation
- ☐ Consider types of burials vs cremation vs body donation
 - ☐ Burials
 - ☐ Traditional Earth Burial
 - ☐ Green Burial
 - ☐ Home Burial
 - ☐ Above ground burial (Entombment)
 - ☐ Cremation
 - ☐ Direct
 - ☐ Intermediary
 - ☐ Witnessing
 - ☐ Donation
 - ☐ Type of institution (cremated after use)
 - ☐ Living Funeral (funeral while alive)
- ☐ Consider location
 - ☐ Burial site
 - ☐ Ashes



- ☐ Consider what to do with remains
- ☐ Consider Container
 - ☐ Coffin
 - ☐ Urn
 - ☐ Cardboard Box
 - ☐ Shroud
- ☐ Consider costs. Prices can vary greatly!
- ☐ Consider embalming + preparation of their body, if desired
- ☐ Consider service options
 - ☐ Public vs Private
 - ☐ Funeral Service
 - ☐ Wake or Viewing or Visitation
 - ☐ Celebration of Life
 - ☐ Memorial Service
 - ☐ Graveside or committal service
 - ☐ Scattering Ceremony
 - ☐ Military Service
 - ☐ Special Religious Ceremony
 - ☐ Open or Closed Casket
- ☐ Contact Funeral Home or Other Choice to make pre-arrangement plans
- ☐ Pick out a gravesite, gravestone or grave marker
- ☐ Decide what inscriptions will be placed on gravestone (epitaph)
- ☐ Discuss transportation options of body
 - ☐ How is this arranged
 - ☐ How does this work
- ☐ Obtain death certificates (5-10)
- ☐ Find out if the dying person is entitled to any special burial benefits or services



- ☐ Veterans benefits
- ☐ Military honors
- ☐ Government benefits
- ☐ Religious groups
- ☐ Fraternal/sorority organizations
- ☐ Choose special clothing, jewelry, make-up (if applicable) for your dying person to wear
 - ☐ One for on their departure from home to funeral home
 - ☐ One for their funeral service, if applicable
- ☐ Decide on a location for the service

The following are considerations that may or may not apply:

- ☐ Pick out a florist and flower arrangements
- ☐ Arrange photos to be shown at the service
 - ☐ Consider Photo book, Memorial book, Slideshow, Framed photos
- ☐ Pick out music to be played and songs to be sung during the service
- ☐ Consider any other displays you might have at the service
 - ☐ Videos or Movie
 - ☐ Special trinkets or memorabilia
- ☐ Pick out readings for the service and decide who will read them
 - ☐ Special passages
 - ☐ Religious or spiritual readings
 - ☐ Scripture
 - ☐ Meaningful words
 - ☐ Poems
 - ☐ Quotes
 - ☐ Letters



- ☐ Decide who will read + write your dying person's obituary
 - ☐ **Resource: www.mylivingobituary.com**
- ☐ Communicate any wishes in the obituary (or death notices)
 - ☐ Flower preferences
 - ☐ Donations to be made to charitable organizations or other
- ☐ Decide who will write + give the eulogy
- ☐ Purchase a guest book for those who attend the funeral
 - ☐ Create + buy memorial cards
 - ☐ Send in mail or use at service
 - ☐ Design + print memorial folders, brochures, or programs for the service
 - ☐ Set up transportation to + from the service for family members
 - ☐ Bus
 - ☐ Vans
 - ☐ Carpool
 - ☐ Arrange transportation for the casket
 - ☐ Hearse
- ☐ Set up Police Escort + Road Closures
- ☐ Choose someone to lead and officiate the service
 - ☐ Religious leader
 - ☐ Family member
 - ☐ Friend
 - ☐ Community leader
- ☐ Decide on pallbearers (who will carry the casket)
- ☐ Obtain a burial permit
 - ☐ Known as "permit for disposition"
- ☐ Pick a Date + Time for the service
- ☐ Decide who will be invited



- ☐ Consider whether certain people are invited to certain aspects of arrangements
- ☐ Decide how you will notify invitees
 - ☐ Email
 - ☐ Cards
 - ☐ Social Media Posts
 - ☐ Text Message
 - ☐ Phone
 - ☐ Other
- ☐ Submit obituary to newspaper of choice
- ☐ Arrange a post-funeral gathering
- ☐ Pick out any food or beverages to be served during or after the service
- ☐ Keep a list of well-wishers, sympathy cards, + gifts to write thank-you notes
- ☐ Delegate jobs to different people + keep a list of what each person is responsible for
 - ☐ Family
 - ☐ Friends
 - ☐ Religious or Spiritual members
 - ☐ Neighbors

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