

INTRODUCTION

The death of a loved one can be one of the most traumatic experiences of our lives. Our world is turned upside down. We are plunged into sadness and grief, yet there are so many arrangements to be made and so many things to do. It can be a difficult time.

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT?

What you need to do when someone you love dies depends on the circumstances of death.

IF THE DEATH IS EXPECTED

- Contact the doctor who has been attending your loved one. The doctor will issue a medical certificate of the cause of death.
- Contact the funeral director.
- Contact the clergy, if not already in attendance when your loved one passed away.

IF THE DEATH IS UNEXPECTED

- Contact the doctor who has been attending your loved one. The doctor may issue the medical certificate if he or she is satisfied as to the cause of death and has been in attendance within the previous 28 days.
- Contact the funeral director.
- Contact the clergy.

THE ROLE OF THE FUNERAL DIRECTOR

After the death of a loved one, there are many decisions that will have to be made.

The funeral director will assist you with the detailed planning of the funeral so that you can be with family and friends comforting one another. It is not disrespectful of a relative to contact a funeral director before a loved one dies for guidance and advice on future arrangements. The funeral director will co-ordinate the funeral arrangements to include:

- Liaise with clergy and medical professionals.
- Assistance in the selection and style of the coffin.
- Preparation and dressing of the body.
- Provision of hearse and transport for the removal to the funeral home, the church and the cemetery.
- Grave opening and/or the purchase of a new grave if required.
- All cremation arrangements.
- Arrange disbursements such as clergy and service gratuities, flowers, catering.
- Newspaper and radio obituary notices.
- Full attendance at repose, removal, service and burial.

The funeral director will also attend to any special requests for which the deceased may have left instructions. It is important to know or enquire about your loved one's final wishes.



IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU FEEL NOTHING MORE IS NEEDED AND NOTHING LESS IS EXPECTED. IF, HOWEVER, THE DOCTOR IS UNABLE TO ISSUE THE MEDICAL CERTIFICATE, YOU MUST THEN:

- Contact the Gardaí, who will in turn contact the coroner. The coroner will instruct a pathologist to examine the body and report the cause of death to him. If the pathologist's report to the coroner shows that the death was due to natural causes, the coroner will issue the Medical Certificate.
- In the case of death by accident, or in suspicious circumstances, there will be a post mortem examination. If the cause of death is still unclear, the coroner may call for an inquest.
- The funeral director cannot remove the body or proceed with the funeral arrangements without the knowledge that the medical certificate will be issued.

CREMATION IF THE DEATH IS EXPECTED

- If the body of your loved one is to be cremated, the deceased's doctor must have attended within 28 days before the death, and must first view the body after death and fill out documentation before the funeral director can proceed with the arrangements.
- If the death is unexpected
- The coroner will arrange the necessary medical documentation for the cremation authority with the funeral director.

THE ROLE OF THE CLERGY

Your clergy will be there to support and help you in the difficult days around the death of your loved one. The clergy have three principal roles: minister of comfort, teacher of faith and to officiate at the funeral liturgies.

AFTER THE FUNERAL

It is traditional to arrange a memorial service in the weeks following the funeral to once again commend the deceased and it is normally celebrated in an atmosphere of remembrance. There are other opportunities to remember your loved one at anniversary times and perhaps at a cemetery service.

UNDERSTAND THE GRIEVING PROCESS

When you have lost someone close to you, the journey ahead can be difficult and sometimes lonely. Everybody reacts in different ways. Recognised stages of grieving are shock and numbness, sadness and low mood, anger, guilt and finally acceptance.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

- Bereavement Counselling offers confidential counselling on a one to one basis. Tel: 01 8391766.
- Candlemas offers support and serenity for those who suffer loss by suicide of a loved one. Tel: 024 95148.
- The Beginning Experience brings together people who have suffered loss through bereavement and helps to rebuild lives with the help of others.

Tel: 0801 232 776 500.



ABOUT US

Dignity Funeral Care has grown from years of caring for community bereavement needs. Loss is a difficult time when you have to place your trust in someone to carry out the wishes of your loved one. To have the support of an experienced professional who you know will tailor the requirements of your needs affordably giving you choice and value at a challenging time is all that you want. Throughout the arrangements at Dignity Funeral Care we care that you will be free to bear your loss. We also care that our attention to detail will provide you with exactly what you want without question. It is important that you feel nothing more is needed and nothing less is expected.

At Dignity Funeral Care we respect and value the families that place their trust in us to care for their loved ones.

Our purpose is to understand their needs by listening carefully to what they would like. Any arrangement can be performed as simply or elaborately as you like.

It really is your choice as any plan can be tailored to any arrangements that you want. We understand your need for peace of mind.

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE

At Dignity Funeral Care we provide for all religious denominations integrating their full wishes and customs in the arrangements as planned.

BURIAL & CREMATION

- If you do not own a grave, it will be necessary to purchase one. Dignity Funeral Care will assist you with this arrangement. A single family grave can accommodate three to four burials.

- An existing grave that is full (will not accommodate any further adult burials) may be opened for the burial of an urn/casket following a cremation.

Cremation:

- For more than two decades, cremation has been an alternative to burial In Ireland.
- Both the coffin and the deceased are cremated.
- The ashes are available 24 to 48 hours after the Cremation.
- Your options for the final resting place are many and varied. e.g. Garden of Remembrance, existing family grave, scattering in a chosen location.

CIVIL FUNERALS

A civil ceremony provides a service to families who wish to have a funeral ceremony built around the wishes of the deceased and their family rather than a religion-based “traditional” funeral.

Dignity Funeral Care will dedicate our time to the family to create a service consisting of music and/or poetry readings with special memories for the family, perhaps a hymn and/or prayer and a suitable committal.

With the family’s help, we will write a tribute to the deceased telling his/her “life story” and relate experiences and qualities to capture the essence and enduring spirit of the deceased. When all this is in place, we will then conduct the ceremony at our funeral home, a crematorium or other suitable venue chosen by the family which will be followed by burial or cremation.

After the ceremony, a copy of the tribute is given to the family to keep.

FUNERAL PRE-PLANNING:

For those who wish to make arrangements for their own Funeral in advance and set aside monies to pay for the Funeral, Dignity Funeral Care have put in place an acceptable procedure for you.

One of our Funeral arranging personnel will discuss your requirements in confidence with you. This can take place in your own home, or by you calling to any of our premises, or in conversation over the telephone.

The discussion will focus on what you want to happen. Firstly, you will be asked whether your preferred option is burial or cremation. All other details will be discussed; how you are to be dressed, transportation requirements for family/relatives, chosen Church, chosen cemetery/crematorium, newspaper announcements, music, floral tributes, Church Offering, gratuities etc.

You will then receive, in writing, a proposal for your own Funeral Arrangements. It will also include the cost of that Funeral at today’s prices.



REPATRIATION

AVAILABLE FOR BURIAL OR CREMATION

FROM IRELAND TO ANOTHER COUNTRY

When your loved one passes away in Ireland, and wishes to be sent back to their home country to be buried or cremated, we can look after everything from the collection of the remains right up to transferring them to the airport. For many years now, Dignity Funeral Care have built up a reputation of expertise in working speedily and efficiently through the regulations that are associated with bringing a departed loved one home to another country. We will arrange everything such as obtaining the appropriate paperwork, e.g. death cert, out of state papers, and dealing with various embassies. We will collect the remains from their place of death and bring them to our funeral home for preparation and we can also facilitate viewing for friends/family in one of our funeral homes. Dignity Funeral Care will then book the flights for the deceased and arrange to have the coffin transferred to the airport the day prior to departure.

FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY TO IRELAND

When your loved one passes away in a foreign country and wishes to be buried back in Ireland, an extra dimension of painful difficulty can present itself to the grieving family. At Dignity Funeral Care, we can take care of all the arrangements for you. If language barriers

exist, we are very experienced at locating and liaising with international Funeral Directors on your behalf; or we can work with the Undertaker appointed by the family in the foreign country; and arrange to have the deceased brought back home as soon as possible. We can make preliminary funeral arrangements with families over the phone internationally, followed later by a meeting in Ireland, and meanwhile we will book the Church and the Cemetery according to your instructions. Dignity Funeral Care are well versed also in liaising with the parish staff of former parishioners who emigrated abroad. We will then make sure that all paperwork is in order, and liaise with transport authorities to facilitate smooth flight details. Having collected the deceased from the airport, we will re-prepare the remains if necessary to facilitate family viewing in Ireland.

FUNERAL COSTS

People sometimes make the mistake of assuming they have to go for the more expensive options when their loved ones would have preferred something much simpler. One of the first concerns you might have during the funeral arrangement process is the cost involved. Expenses can quickly mount up and so it is important to have a detailed funeral price estimate that is all inclusive of the services and fees required for the memorial or funeral. While your mind is bound to be caught up on other things, you need to have the peace of mind that the financial aspect of the funeral can be handled quickly and efficiently. It is best to ask your funeral director for a breakdown of the services involved and for some details on the funeral planning or funeral arrangement process. This way you can be sure absolutely everything has been taken into account and that no hidden expenses crop up. A professional funeral home will be able to present you with a set list of services and rates you can peruse.

Dignity Funeral Care will prepare a written estimate once all your choices are made and arrangements are confirmed.

A FUNERAL ACCOUNT IS BROKEN UP INTO TWO MAIN PARTS:

FUNERAL DIRECTOR'S CHARGES

FUNERAL DIRECTOR'S CHARGES ARE GENERALLY MADE UP OF THE COST OF:

- The coffin or casket
- Provision of vehicles
- Removal of the deceased
- Care of the deceased
- Transport to the place of repose

- Grave Maker & Dressing of the Grave
- Transport to the Church or Crematorium
- Use of funeral home
- Condolence Books
- Professional services
- Rip.ie personalised notice

DISBURSEMENTS - EXPENSES PAID TO THIRD PARTIES ON THE CLIENTS BEHALF.

- Cemetery/Crematorium charges
- Church offerings
- Death announcements in National newspapers and/or Local Radio
- Singer/Music
- Flowers

OUR FLEET

At Dignity Funeral Care we are proud of our choice of fleet. Our selection of discreet hearse, retrieval and courtesy vehicles is based on safety, reliability and appearance. Constant investment in current models from reputable manufacturers ensures our fleet is a preferred choice. Our utmost confidence in our fleet performance is vital to ensure your peace of mind.

