

VITAL INFO



'MATTERS WORRYING YOU'

As people only arrange a few funerals in their lifetime, we are sure that there are concerns and questions, which are worrying you. Below are the answers to some of the things which may be worrying you at this time:-

(Q1) WE HAVE NO SAVINGS, INSURANCE COVER AND CAN'T AFFORD A FUNERAL. WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

We would like you to be honest with us. If you know about the situation we can help you arrange a funeral for your budget. We will help you apply for grants from the DSS. If you are not eligible for any grants, we have payment schemes where the funeral can be paid for weekly or monthly. If we don't know we can't help you so don't be embarrassed to mention it.

(Q2) IS A BURIAL MORE EXPENSIVE THAN CREMATION?

Yes. There is an increasing shortage of space in cemeteries. Some cemeteries have no space for new burials and the number will increase over the coming years. Due to this the fees for purchasing a grave have increased dramatically over the last few years.

(Q3) DOES THE FUNERAL DIRECTOR ORGANISE EVERYTHING?

We like to take all the arrangements out of your hands. What you decide during the arrangements, we will organise, whether that is flowers, catering, press notices, churches, or ministers. In doing this we know that the funeral will run very smoothly which will help you in your grief and it means you have plenty of time to look after family and children and yourself during this time

(Q4) I DON'T GO TO CHURCH. HOW DO I FIND A MEMBER OF THE CLERGY?

We will arrange for a member of the clergy to contact you. It will be the person who will conduct the service. All you have to do is arrange a convenient time when he/she can come and see you.

(Q5) I'M AN ATHEIST. WHAT SORT OF FUNERAL CAN I HAVE?

You can have a humanist funeral. This is a non-religious service and there will be no reference to God or the Bible. Religious hymns can't be sung but non-religious music can be played. The Cross at the Crematorium will be covered too. If you want a burial, the service of thanksgiving would have to take place at the graveside or at our Funeral Home. You couldn't have a service in a Church/chapel.

(Q6) DO I SIT DOWN AND PLAN MY RELATIVE'S FUNERAL IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FUNERAL DIRECTOR?

Before we arrive to make the funeral arrangements, it is helpful if you have had a chance to think about the funeral with your family. Even if you know it's a burial or cremation. When we arrive, we will help you arrange a funeral which you think your loved one would have wanted.

We will ask you numerous questions but the answers and therefore the kind of funeral will be down to you and your family. We are there to give you the different options of what is available so the funeral is the kind of funeral you want. We will guide you but the decisions are down to you, as you knew your loved one

(Q7) ARE THERE ANY RESTRICTIONS ON THE MUSIC I CAN HAVE PLAYED?

No. Any piece of music can be played from classical to religious, to rock and roll to dance music.

(Q8) CAN A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY DO ONE OF THE READINGS OR READ OUT A SPECIAL MESSAGE?

Yes and we encourage it because it makes the service very individual. You can go as far as a family member playing a musical instrument or a number of friends talking about how they knew the person.

**(Q9) WHERE IS MY RELATIVE TAKEN BETWEEN THE TIME OF DEATH AND THE FUNERAL?
WHEN CAN I SEE THE BODY?**

If your relative passed away in hospital, they will go to the hospital mortuary and then to our bereavement home once all the legal paper work is completed. If they passed away in a care home or a private house, they will be taken to our bereavement home once the doctor has certified death.

In the majority of cases your loved one would remain at our bereavement home until the day of the funeral. We can only start to dress your loved one and place them in their coffins once all legalities are complete - these include doctor's forms, application forms and registration of the death. Once all these are complete and your loved one dressed and in their coffins, we will let you know.

We try our very hardest for you so you can come and see your loved one as quickly as possible after the death.

(Q10) WHY IS THE CORONER INVOLVED?

The Coroner is involved if your loved one was not attended by a doctor during the last illness or the doctor treating the deceased had not seen them after death or within 14 days before death, the cause of death is not known or the death was caused by an industrial disease.

if the coroner is involved, there is nothing to worry about.

(Q11) CAN I BE BURIED AT HOME, IN THE GARDEN?

Yes, and if you want this to happen, just mention it. If someone is buried in their garden, the information has to be put on the title deeds and Yorkshire Water has to be informed. We will sort out the legal side of things.

(Q12) ARE THERE ANY ECOLOGICAL ALTERNATIVES TO CUTTING DOWN A 300-YEAR-OLD TREE FOR MY COFFIN?

Yes. Woodland burials or Green funerals can be carried out. These are when each part of the funeral has an environment aspect. For further information see woodland burials

(Q13) IS THERE A FUNERAL ETIQUETTE?

Funeral Etiquette, like in all aspects of etiquette, is now more relaxed. You don't have to dress entirely in black but then you may not want to turn up in brightly patterned clothes. Something in between is acceptable. Sometimes the family may request mourners to wear bright clothes or not to dress in black.

(Q14) WHAT IS EMBALMING?

A chemical process that preserves the deceased, slowing down the natural process of deterioration. It is recommended if you wish to spend time with you loved one prior to the funeral.

(Q15) DOES THE COFFIN MOVE AT THE END OF THE SERVICE AT THE CREMATORIUM?

No. The coffin does not move until all relatives and friends have left the Crematorium chapel. At some crematoriums there are curtains that close at the head of the coffin, but this is only done at the request of the relatives. If this happens, the coffin is still there but you can't see it.

(Q16) ARE THE HANDLES ON THE COFFIN REMOVED BEFORE THE CREMATION TAKES PLACE?

No. There are strict Cremations Laws in the UK. Nothing may be removed from the coffin before cremation without the permission of the Home Office

(Q17) IS EACH CREMATION CARRIED OUT INDIVIDUALLY?

Yes. The identity of the coffin name plate is checked by the Crematorium Attendant before it is placed in the Cremator. The Cremation Chamber is only big enough to hold one coffin or casket at a time. The Cremation Laws state that "coffins must be cremated separately".

(Q18) DO I GET THE CREMATED REMAINS BACK OF MY LOVED ONE?

Yes. Once the cremation has taken place, the cremated remains are removed from the cremator and placed in an urn, once they have cooled. The urn is clearly identified as to whose remains they are

(Q19) WHAT CAN I DO WITH THE CREMATED REMAINS?

They can be scattered in the Garden of Remembrance at the Crematorium, interred in a family grave or cremated remains section of a cemetery/churchyard, scattered in a special place or kept at home - either in the house or garden.

(Q20) HOW SOON AFTER A BURIAL CAN I PUT A HEADSTONE ON THE GRAVE?

The grave will take six months or more before the ground is firm enough to place the weight of a headstone. If the memorial is placed on the grave too soon, it will sink and would have to be re-fixed.