

Family Discussion Outline

“Having the discussion of a lifetime”

What does a meaningful funeral or “Life Celebration” ceremony look like to each family member? It is important to openly share your thoughts as a family.

- Value of seeing your loved one before burial or cremation; otherwise known as a viewing is where the effects of sickness and final stages of dying have been erased for a peaceful goodbye.
- Do we as survivors desire a resting place for our loved one or will their remains (ashes) be released somewhere else?
- Will a ceremony occur in a funeral home, a church, or other type of community center?
- Who will conduct, Emcee or celebrate the service. A minister, the mayor, or a certified “Celebrant” are all considerations.
- What will the content of the ceremony look?
 - Religious or non-religious or some variation of both
 - Memories shared randomly about the deceased or prepared in advance by the Celebrant or Minister. Or will both occur? A Celebrant will guide you down “Memory lane” to help prepare a eulogy.
 - Is there special music the deceased liked that should be played during the visitation and/or during the ceremony?
 - Will a slide show of pictures be played in DVD or power point format?
 - Will the funeral have a theme? Did the deceased like snickers bars for example, warranting a basket of snickers be on hand to give to every guest.
 - What memorabilia will be displayed during the visitation or funeral?