What to Do
When a Loved One Dies
A Guide To Making Funeral Arrangements

One of the most stressful and difficult times people face is when a loved one dies.

As a survivor, you may have to take on responsibilities and make decisions that are unfamiliar. This guide is intended to help you become more familiar with arranging a funeral.
When Death Occurs • First Steps
If your loved one dies in a hospital, nursing facility, or hospice, the professional caregiver, nurse, or physician on duty will help you with the next steps. If the death occurs at home or your loved one has not been under the direct care of a physician or other medical professional, call 911. Report the circumstances and follow the guidance of the emergency personnel.

As soon as you can, notify:
• Family members and friends
• Funeral home
• Clergy
• Membership organizations

Decisions You’ll Need to Make
The number of decisions you have to make after a loved one’s death may seem overwhelming. However, as you make each decision, many of the others will fall into place. Here are some of the most important decisions you will be making:

Choosing a Funeral Director & Final Place of Rest
• Funeral director
• Burial or entombment in a mausoleum
• Cremation
• Other, including body donation or burial at sea
• Organ donation

Making Arrangements for a Traditional Funeral Service
• Preceding burial, cremation, or other
• Public or private

Making Arrangements for Other Tribute Services
• Memorial service (after cremation or any other time)
• Committal service (at burial, crypt, or niche site)
• At sea

Additional Considerations
• Choosing a casket (container for cremation or burial)
• Choosing an urn (container for cremated remains)
• Selecting burial clothing (including eyeglasses and/or jewelry)
• Writing and submitting an obituary or death notice
• Selecting pallbearers
• Preparing eulogies and inviting presenters

Documents & Information You Will Need
These documents will help expedite the process, if applicable.
• Cemetery property ownership documents
• Pre-planned funeral arrangements (if applicable)
• Insurance policies
• Social Security information
• Veteran documents
• Birth certificate and citizenship documents
• Marriage license

Your Health and Next Steps
The details of planning a funeral can sometimes provide a brief distraction from grief. Therefore, when the funeral is past, it’s important to try to maintain some routine. Here are a few suggestions:

Take Care of Yourself
• Eat and rest as much as possible
• Check in with your doctor
• Join a support group
• Use internet and library resources to find support
• Ask questions
• Gather and visit with friends and family

Collect Important Documents for Follow-up
• Death certificates
• Funeral and cemetery bills
• Credit card statements
• Pension information
• Wills and trust documents
• Bank statements
• Tax returns
• Insurance policies

Contacts for Follow-up
• Banks
• Attorney
• Insurance agents
• Veterans Administration
• Social Security
• Union
• Employer
• Accountant/tax preparer
• Department of Motor Vehicles
SERVICES FUNERAL HOMES PROVIDE
Funeral homes handle and coordinate the transfer of your loved one to their facility, notify the cemetery, and help make funeral arrangements prior to burial, interment in a mausoleum, or cremation. Cremation must be done at a crematory. The funeral director is responsible for the transfer of your loved one to the crematory and return of the cremated remains to you. Trinity Church Cemetery & Mausoleum does not offer these services but does coordinate with funeral homes.

LOCAL FUNERAL HOMES
If you do not have a preferred family funeral home, below are some local options. Most funeral homes are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This list is provided as a service, not an endorsement by Trinity Church Cemetery & Mausoleum.

Redden Funeral Home
325 West 14th Street
New York, NY 10014
212.242.1456

Benta’s Funeral Home
630 St. Nicholas Avenue
New York, NY 10030
212.281.8851

Rivera Funeral Home
1260 St. Nicholas Avenue
New York, NY 10033
212.795.4400

Crestwood Cremation & Funeral Service
199 Bleeker Street
New York, NY 10012
212.431.6080

ONLINE RESOURCES
beremembered.com
agoodgoodbye.com
funeralplanning101.com
funeralwise.com
funeral-help.com
thefuneralsite.com

Trinity Church Cemetery & Mausoleum is located in Northern Manhattan at 770 Riverside Drive between 153rd Street and 155th Street.

DIRECTIONS
By Car:
• North on the Henry Hudson Parkway (9A), take exit 13 toward West 158th Street. Continue on 158th Street. Turn right on Broadway and right at 153rd Street.
• South from the George Washington Bridge, take exit 1 for the Henry Hudson Parkway (9A), follow signs for Riverside Drive/Downtown. Continue on Riverside Drive. Turn left at 165th Street, right on Broadway, and right at 153rd Street.

By Subway:
• Take the C subway line to the 155th Street station stop. Walk west on 155th Street toward Riverside Drive.
• Take the 1 subway line to the 157th Street station stop. Walk south to 155th Street and west to Riverside Drive.

By Bus:
• Take the M4 or M5 to Broadway and West 153rd Street.

Contact us at 212.368.1600 or cemetery@trinitywallstreet.org
Mon-Fri | Hours: 9am–4pm

Trinity Church Cemetery & Mausoleum
770 Riverside Drive • New York, NY 10032
trinitywallstreet.org/cemetery