# Funeral and celebration of life checklist

*Plan the goodbye you want, or use it to help your family plan one for someone you love.*

## 01 Choose the kind of goodbye.

A traditional funeral, a memorial, a celebration of life, or something small and private. There's no wrong choice, only the one that feels like them.

## 02 Decide what happens to the body.

Burial, cremation, green burial, or donation. Writing it down now saves your family from guessing on one of the hardest days.

## 03 Pick the place and the people.

Where it's held, who leads it, who speaks, and who you want there. Name a point person so one family member isn't carrying everything.

## 04 Set the mood.

Music, readings, flowers, what people wear, the food after. These small choices are what make it feel personal.

## 05 Talk about cost.

Note any prepaid plan, insurance, or savings set aside, and a rough budget. Families often overspend when no one knows what was wanted.

**A SIMPLE STARTING POINT**

*When I pass, I'd like a* type of gathering *at* place *. Please play* a song *, and wear* colors or dress code *. Most of all, I want people to* laugh, share stories, dance... *.*

MATCHES THE FUNERAL AND GATHERING QUESTIONS IN MY AFTER PARTY

# The basics

Check what fits. You can change your mind anytime.

## TYPE OF GATHERING

- ☐ Funeral
- ☐ Memorial service
- ☐ Celebration of life
- ☐ Graveside service
- ☐ Private, family only
- ☐ Virtual or hybrid
- ☐ No service
- ☐ Not sure yet
- ☐ Family can decide

## BURIAL OR CREMATION

- ☐ Burial
- ☐ Cremation
- ☐ Green burial
- ☐ Body donation
- ☐ Not sure yet
- ☐ Family can decide

Where they'd like to rest, or where ashes should go

*A cemetery, a family plot, scattered somewhere meaningful, or kept at home.*

## WHERE AND WHEN

Place (funeral home, faith community, park, home, venue)

Timing (within a week, a few weeks later, a meaningful date)

Funeral home or provider, if chosen

Prepaid plan or policy, and where the papers are

Faith, cultural, or family traditions to include

MATCHES THE MUSIC, READINGS, AND PEOPLE QUESTIONS IN MY AFTER PARTY

# People, music, and words

## THE PEOPLE

Point person who makes the plans

Who leads the service (officiant or host)

Who they'd like to speak or share a eulogy

Pallbearers or honorary roles

Anyone they especially want invited

## MUSIC

| SONG | ARTIST | WHEN IT PLAYS |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

## READINGS AND WORDS

Poems, prayers, scripture, or quotes

Something they'd want everyone to hear

*A message, a joke, a thank-you. It can be read aloud by someone else.*

MATCHES THE AFTER PARTY AND FINAL TOUCHES QUESTIONS IN MY AFTER PARTY

# The feel and the after party

## THE DETAILS

What people should wear
*Black, bright colors, a favorite team, "come as you are."*

Flowers, or in lieu of flowers
*A charity, a cause, or "flowers welcome."*

Photos, videos, or keepsakes to display

Open or closed casket, or a viewing

Things they definitely do *not* want

## THE RECEPTION

Where people gather after

Food and drinks (a favorite dish, a toast, a bar)

How it should feel

- ☐ Quiet and calm
- ☐ Warm and casual
- ☐ A real party

## BUDGET

Rough budget

How it's paid for (prepaid, insurance, savings)

Keep a copy with your important papers and tell your point person where it is. You can also save these choices in My After Party so your Delegate can find them. After Party is a planning tool. It does not provide legal, financial, or medical advice. Prices and rules vary by funeral home and state.