



**Stillpoint**

**FREE GUIDE**

# Funeral planning checklist

Every decision and task, gathered in one calm place.

---

This is general, educational information from a free matching service. Stillpoint is not a funeral home and does not give legal or financial advice. Always ask each provider for its itemized price list and confirm prices in writing.

# Funeral & cremation planning checklist

A calm, step-by-step list so nothing important is forgotten. Move at your own pace — you do not have to do everything at once.

## In the first hours

- Get a legal pronouncement of death (hospital, hospice, or by calling your local non-emergency number if at home).
- Tell close family and a few trusted friends. Ask one person to help make calls.
- Check for any pre-planned wishes, a will, or a pre-need contract.
- If the person was a veteran, note it — burial benefits may apply.
- Take your time. Most decisions do not have to be made tonight.

## Choosing a provider

- Decide between burial and cremation (you can change your mind before signing).
- Ask two or three funeral homes for their itemized General Price List (GPL) — this is your right.
- Compare prices line by line. You only have to buy the goods and services you want.
- Confirm the provider is licensed in your state.
- Get the final price and what it includes in writing before you agree.

## Planning the service

- Decide the kind of gathering: funeral, memorial, graveside, or celebration of life.
- Choose the date, place, and who will lead it.
- Gather photos, music, and readings that feel right.
- Write or arrange an obituary or death notice if you want one.
- Decide who to notify and how.

## Paperwork and after

- Order several certified copies of the death certificate (banks and agencies often each need one).
- Notify Social Security, the bank, insurers, and employers.
- Keep all receipts and contracts together in one folder.
- Ask about grief support — many providers and community groups offer it free.

---

Remember: under the FTC Funeral Rule you have the right to an itemized price list, to buy only what you want, to use a casket or urn bought elsewhere, and to decline embalming where it is not required. When you are ready, Stillpoint can connect you, free, with licensed providers near you at [stillpointrest.com](https://stillpointrest.com).