



The International Corporation of Professional Celebrants

Funeral Service Plan: Basic Cremation Service

During a funeral service, each element should be tailored to honour the life of the deceased and provide comfort to their loved ones. If you prefer a simple and straightforward cremation service without a eulogy or tribute, the following outline presents the basic components to consider:

- 1. Reception and Gathering:** Provide a designated area where family and friends can gather before the service begins. This allows them to express condolences, share memories, and support one another in their grief.
- 2. Introduction and Welcome:** Begin the service with a brief introduction by the officiant or a designated person, expressing gratitude for everyone's presence and acknowledging the purpose of the gathering.
- 3. Music Selection:** Choose instrumental music, soothing melodies, or ambient sounds that create a peaceful and reflective atmosphere. This can be played softly in the background throughout the service.
- 3. Moment of Silence and Reflection:** Invite attendees to observe a moment of silence to honour and remember the life of the deceased. Encourage them to reflect on their personal memories and offer their own private prayers or thoughts.
- 4. Reading of Poems or Passages:** Select meaningful poems, scriptures, or literary passages that resonate with the life and beliefs of the deceased. These readings can be performed by a close friend, family member, or the officiant.
- 5. Commemorative Slideshow or Display:** Prepare a slideshow or display of photographs that depict significant moments and cherished memories of the deceased. Showcase their life journey, family, friends, and milestones to evoke a sense of remembrance and celebration.
- 6. Observing the Act of Cremation:** If desired, arrange for attendees to witness the act of cremation, following any legal and practical considerations. This can provide closure for family members and a final opportunity to say goodbye in a private and intimate setting.
- 8. Closing Words and Thank You:** Conclude the service with closing remarks, expressing appreciation for everyone's attendance and support. Offer gratitude to those who have assisted in organising the service and extend an invitation to join for any post-funeral gathering or reception, if applicable.



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9. Disposition of Ashes: Discuss the preferred plans for the disposition of the ashes, whether it's scattering them in a meaningful location, keeping them in an urn, or other chosen methods. Provide instructions or resources for any necessary legal procedures.

10. Support and Aftercare: Ensure that grieving family members and friends are aware of available support services, such as grief counselling, support groups, or bereavement resources. Share contact information for local organisations or professionals who can assist them during this difficult time.

Remember, even in a basic cremation service, it is essential to honour the life and memory of the deceased while offering support and solace to those left behind. Tailor the service to reflect their individuality, beliefs, and the wishes of the family, creating a meaningful and respectful experience for all attendees.

Claire Mountain
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