

# **Mountain Celebrations Ltd**

## **Coronavirus and funerals in the UK**

Those who are planning a funeral at this time, will be worried for their safety of their loved ones and of course themselves. Planning a funeral at any time is stressful, emotional and potentially sometimes difficult, but with coronavirus (COVID-19) now classified as a pandemic by the World Health Organisation (WHO), there are additional factors to take into consideration.

You will all have questions in your mind

*“How will the virus affect the funeral ceremony and what steps you can take to limit its effect.”*

### **Some Points that you might want to consider**

- What happens if your chosen Celebrant is too ill to conduct the ceremony?
- What happens if your chosen Celebrant is unable to come and see me?
- What happens if the Crematorium or Cemetery/ chosen venue stops attendees coming to the Funeral?

Funeral Celebrants mostly are self-employed, so they will be very flexible, however they will also be guided by their assisting associations for example the AOIC & the NAFD.

Funeral Celebrants work very closely with their Funeral Directors and will liaise with them constantly throughout their time working with you as a family.

**Mountain Celebrations** has a team of Celebrants. Our Celebrants are all trained, qualified, insured, DBS and ICO checked, we keep all scripts on file, so that if for some reason they are unable or unwell and cannot attend the funeral, Mountain Celebrations will provide an alternative Celebrant to cover. The alternative Celebrant will have a full detailed copy of your chosen script, will be aware of your chosen music and readings, so by this we will be able to relieve you of any worries or disappointment on the day when saying goodbye to your loved one.

### ***Having a back-up plan during the COVID-19***

Mountain Celebrations is supported by the AOIC (Association of Independent Celebrants).

Currently until the Government make any further announcements all Funerals are going ahead as normal, should things change in the next few days and weeks, make sure you keep in contact with your chosen Celebrant and Funeral Director.

## **Things to think about if the COVID-19 restrictions come into place.**

Although it is common practice for your Celebrant to visit you in your home when discussing the funeral ceremony choices, you might want to **limit contact** for the present time and conduct the meeting by either SKYPE, FACE TIME, TELEPHONE or EMAIL... these options will limit yourself and the Celebrant from any unnecessary exposure.

When the funeral ceremony takes place, you might want to think about **only** having **immediate family** at the service, and choose the option of **Video Linking** the service for those who would like to be there but do not necessarily have to be, for example extended family and friends, or work colleagues.

Although this is not what we all want, it is however an option, taking these options into consideration, might help with the containment of this virus.

Those displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or those that are self-isolating, will still be able to pay their respects, and feel that they have still been a part of the ceremony.

Alternatively, here at **Mountain Celebrations** we will do everything we can to assist in the filming or photographing of a service should the family wish to use their phone or tablet and use an app such as Periscope, Facebook Live, or Instagram Live Stories to stream the Ceremony.

You will need to ensure the venue has an internet connection you can use.

Live streaming of funerals is becoming increasingly popular, as it provides a way for family and friends around the world to take part.

Mountain Celebrations is happy during this time to provide additional script access for those Mourners who are unable to attend the funeral in person or online may welcome the opportunity to read the full script as it was delivered on the day. **(Please contact us for options)**

### ***Final Thoughts for you from Mountain Celebrations.***

Keeping up to date with the latest news and medical advice  
Stay aware of the latest information on the COVID-19 outbreak via the WHO or NHS websites. The situation is unpredictable and changing hourly so check regularly for the latest news.

You can reduce your chances of being infected or spreading COVID-19 by taking some simple precautions and asking other mourners to do the same. The latest advice is to wash your hands frequently with soap and water or to use an alcohol-based hand rub because this kills viruses that may be on your hands.

To limit large gatherings, and to be aware of those around you and their displaying of any symptoms.

WHO advises that you should maintain at least 1 metre (3 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing because when someone coughs or sneezes they spray small liquid droplets from their nose or mouth which may contain virus.

If you are too close, you can breathe in the droplets, including the COVID-19 virus if the person coughing has the disease.

If one of the mourners has a fever or cough, the advice is to stay at home. If the illness develops and causes difficulty breathing, they should seek medical attention by calling 111.

Calling will enable their health care provider to quickly direct them to the right health facility. This will also protect them and help prevent spread of viruses and other infections.

### ***Find a celebrant***

If you would like to discuss a funeral, you can find your local Civil Celebrant via our website. [www.mountaincelebrations.co.uk](http://www.mountaincelebrations.co.uk)

Take Care everyone

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