

THE SEVEN REASONS
TO START PLANNING YOUR
FUNERAL

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We readily make plans for vacations, family gatherings, home improvements, and new pursuits. Planning allows us to bring our ideas to life and provides a sense of clarity, control, and direction. While funeral preplanning may feel unfamiliar—or even uncomfortable at first—many people ultimately discover it to be one of the most thoughtful and empowering decisions they can make.

Rather than leaving important choices to loved ones during a time of grief, preplanning allows individuals to make their wishes known in advance and ensure they are honored. By planning ahead, you ease the emotional and practical burden on your family while giving yourself the comfort of knowing everything is thoughtfully arranged.

Once your plan is in place, you are free to return your focus to living fully—confident that you have taken care of one of life's most meaningful responsibilities. Still wondering if now is the right time? Consider these seven irrefutable reasons to begin today.



YOU EASE THE BURDEN ON THOSE YOU LOVE

1

In moments of loss, families are often faced with profound grief while simultaneously being asked to make dozens of urgent and unfamiliar decisions. Choices about services, arrangements, and expenses must be made quickly—often within hours—at a time when emotions are raw and clarity is hard to find.

By preplanning, you remove this burden from those you love most. Your family is spared the difficult choice between honoring your wishes and managing what they can afford. Rather than questioning what you would have wanted or worrying about making the “right” choices, your family is free to focus on what truly matters: supporting one another, honoring your life, and beginning the healing process.

2

YOUR WISHES ARE CLEARLY HONORED

Every life is unique, and the way it is remembered should be equally personal. Preplanning allows you to thoughtfully express your preferences—whether you choose burial or cremation, a traditional service or a simple gathering, meaningful music, favorite readings, or other personal details that reflect who you are.

By taking the time to document these decisions in advance, you remove uncertainty and guesswork for your family. There is no need for loved ones to wonder what you would have wanted or to make assumptions during an emotionally charged time. Your wishes are clearly defined, respectfully preserved, and carried out with intention.

Preplanning ensures that your service reflects your values, beliefs, and personality, creating a meaningful tribute that feels authentic and true to your life—just as you envisioned it.





YOU PROTECT AGAINST RISING COSTS

3

Like most goods and services, funeral and cremation expenses tend to increase over time due to inflation and rising operational costs. When arrangements are made at the time of need, families often have little choice but to accept current pricing—regardless of how much costs may have changed since plans were first discussed.

Preplanning allows you to take a proactive approach. By making arrangements in advance, you may be able to secure today's pricing and establish a plan that reflects both your wishes and your budget. This provides financial certainty and helps protect your loved ones from unexpected expenses during an already emotional time. Perhaps most importantly, preplanning removes financial pressure from the moment of loss.

4

YOU MINIMIZE UNCERTAINTY AND FAMILY DISAGREEMENT

Clear plans create clarity and calm. When arrangements are made in advance, loved ones are spared confusion, second-guessing, and the stress of making decisions during an already emotional time.

Grief often heightens emotions and can unintentionally give rise to tension or conflict, even within the closest families. Preplanning removes uncertainty by clearly documenting your preferences and intentions. With your wishes known, your family is guided by confidence rather than doubt, allowing them to come together in unity and support as they honor your life.



YOU SHAPE HOW YOU ARE REMEMBERED

Your life story deserves to be told with intention and care. Preplanning allows you to thoughtfully reflect your values, beliefs, and personality, ensuring your legacy is honored in a way that feels both authentic and deeply personal.

It also gives you the opportunity to include meaningful details that speak to who you are—perhaps a favorite song, cherished recipes to be shared with family and friends, or a service held in a place that holds special significance. These personal touches transform a service into a true reflection of your life, rather than a generic farewell.

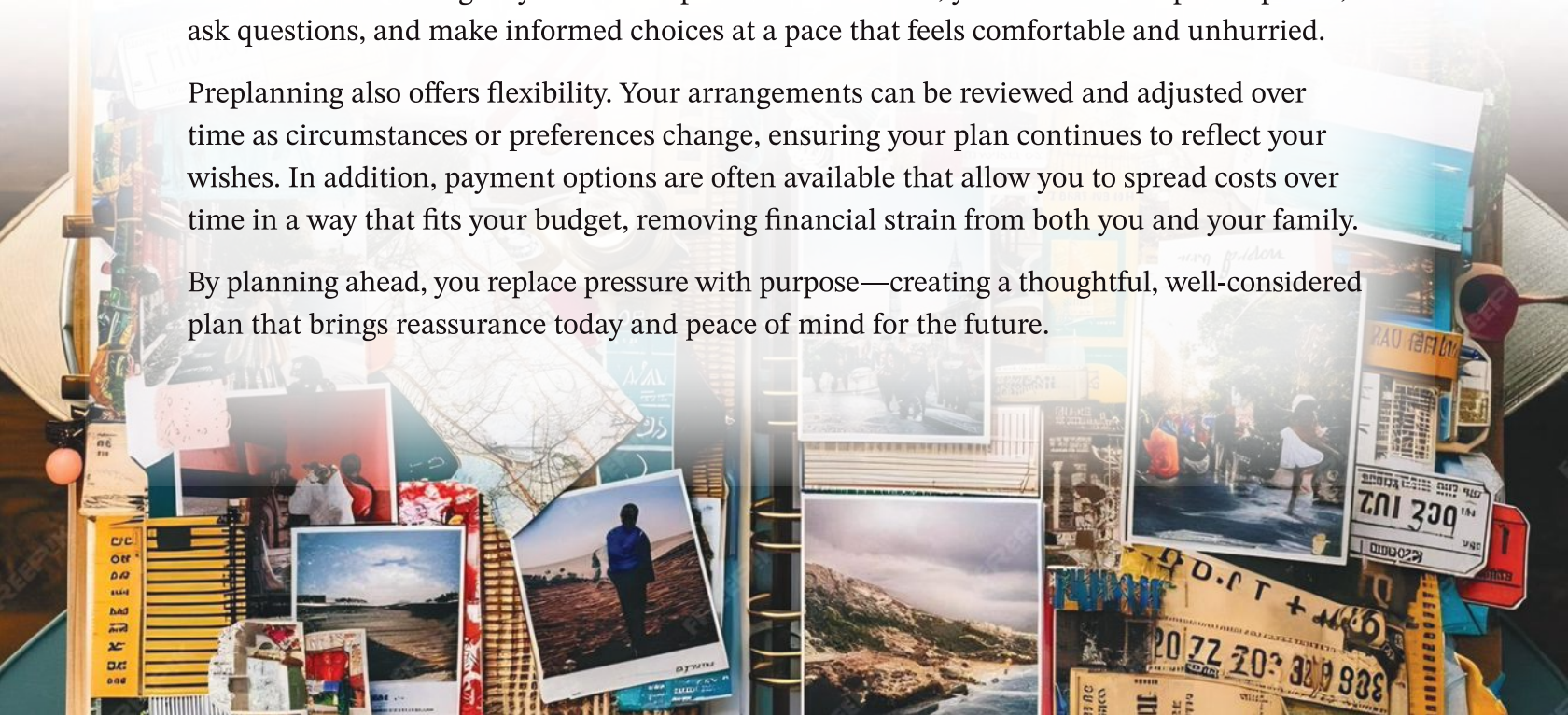
Preplanning is your opportunity to thoughtfully shape how you will be remembered, creating a lasting tribute that celebrates your life, your story, and the memories you leave behind.

YOU PLAN THOUGHTFULLY, WITHOUT PRESSURE

Planning in advance allows you to approach decisions with clarity, intention, and peace of mind. Without the urgency that accompanies a time of loss, you are able to explore options, ask questions, and make informed choices at a pace that feels comfortable and unhurried.

Preplanning also offers flexibility. Your arrangements can be reviewed and adjusted over time as circumstances or preferences change, ensuring your plan continues to reflect your wishes. In addition, payment options are often available that allow you to spread costs over time in a way that fits your budget, removing financial strain from both you and your family.

By planning ahead, you replace pressure with purpose—creating a thoughtful, well-considered plan that brings reassurance today and peace of mind for the future.





7

YOU LEAVE A LASTING GIFT OF PEACE OF MIND

Few gifts are as meaningful as peace of mind. Preplanning is a final act of care—one that allows your family to focus on honoring your life rather than managing details.

***START TODAY. FEEL PEACE
OF MIND TOMORROW.***

You don't need to wait for declining health or the "perfect" moment to begin. Whenever you're ready, we are here to guide you through each step with compassion, clarity, and care. Allow us to help you take this meaningful step—giving your loved ones an invaluable gift and giving yourself the lasting peace of mind that comes from knowing everything is thoughtfully in place.

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Funeral/Cremation Checklist

Personal & Legal Information

Full legal name
Preferred name or nickname
Date of birth
Place of birth
Social Security number
Marital status
Spouse's name
Parents' names
Children's names
Veteran status
Branch of service
Dates of service
Discharge papers location (DD-214)
Religious affiliation
Clergy or officiant preference

Type of Final Disposition

Burial or cremation
Immediate burial or cremation
Traditional service or memorial service
Graveside-only service
Witnessed cremation or not
Green burial consideration
Alkaline hydrolysis (if available)
Donation to science
Organ or tissue donation
Body preparation preferences

Funeral Home & Service Location

Preferred funeral home
Alternate funeral home
Location of service
Day of week for service
Time of day for service
Length of service
Public or private service
Livestreaming option
Seating capacity needs
Accessibility accommodations

Casket or Container (if applicable)

Casket or alternative container
Material choice
Interior fabric
Color or finish
Personalization options
Rental casket option
Protective features
Oversize considerations

Cremation Merchandise (if applicable)

Cremation container type
Urn selection
Urn material
Urn style
Keepsake urns
Jewelry or memorial items
Temporary urn or permanent
Number of keepsakes desired

Embalming & Preparation

Embalming or not
Cosmetic preparation level
Hairstyling
Makeup preferences
Facial hair grooming
Nail care
Jewelry placement
Clothing choice
Personal items included

Visitation / Viewing Decisions

Visitation or no visitation
Open or closed casket
Length of visitation
One day or multiple days
Evening visitation
Family-only viewing
Prayer or vigil service

Ceremony & Service Details

Officiant selection
Opening words or prayers
Readings or scriptures
Eulogy or reflections
Who will speak
Order of service
Special rituals or customs
Military honors inclusion

Music & Media

Musical selections
Live or recorded music
Entrance music
Closing music
Slideshow or video
Photos selected
Video tribute length
AV equipment needs

Flowers & Décor

Floral arrangements
Color theme

Family flowers vs donations
Memorial candles
Display tables
Photos or memorabilia
Guest book style

Transportation

Transfer of remains
Hearse or alternative
Family limousine
Procession planning
Route selection
Lead vehicle or escort

Cemetery or Final Placement

Cemetery selection
Section or garden
Grave space or niche
Companion or single
Vault or liner
Mausoleum options
Scattering location

Graveside or Committal

Graveside service or not
Tent and chairs
Committal prayers
Pallbearers
Lowering device
Military honors timing

Memorialization

Headstone or marker
Material choice
Design and inscription
Photo or emblem
Installation timing
Online memorial page

Reception & Hospitality

Reception location
Food or refreshments
Catering provider
Guest count estimate
Program or prayer cards

Financial & Administrative

Budget preferences
Prepayment or insurance funding
Obituary publication
Death certificates quantity
Charitable designations or memorial gifts

Why This Checklist Matters

This list makes one thing clear: funeral and cremation planning involves far more decisions than most families realize—often made during grief, shock, and time pressure. Preplanning transforms this from a burden into a thoughtful, loving process.