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Celebration of Life Questions

You do not need to complete this in advance of our meeting. It is just here to help you prepare, if you want to use it. You will have a lot to organise and think about so please don't worry if this is too much to do before I meet you.

I will aim to gather all the information I need on my visit to ensure that between us we can capture your loved one's life and character in a service that is special for them.

When I visit, I do not work through it as a questionnaire as information will come out as we chat – and please do not worry if you cannot answer every question.

Initial Details

This section helps me ensure I am not missing something vital.

Full name of Deceased.

Date of Death.

Date of Birth & Age:

Marital Status:

Nickname / Known as:

Day, Date & Time of funeral:

Name of Funeral Director:

Name of Client:

Relationship to the deceased:

Address:

Telephone No's / Email:

Contact details of other relevant persons:

Each *life* beautifully *remembered*



Celebration of Life Plan

The elements below are typical features of a service but there are no hard and fast rules, so I am more than happy to discuss other ideas and suggestions that will ensure we create the best Celebration of Life for your loved one.

- Entrance and exit music. Usually, the exit music is a little more uplifting as it will be hard for everyone to leave the chapel if they are too upset
- Middle reflection music – if you are having a photo/video tribute, it will play to this piece of music. At the crematoria we can have up to five pieces of music, most families have three, we can easily fit in a fourth. If you want five, we will need to talk through how we make this work.
- One (two if time) poems or readings – (I can make suggestions once I know more about your loved one.)
- Tribute/eulogy – If you are writing some or all of this yourself, the information below will help you. If I am writing it, the questions and prompts below will help you prepare your thoughts.
Note: If you/family members are writing some or all of this, I will need to agree a word count with you, and I will need this before I start writing my parts of the service so I can keep timing and avoid duplication.
- The additional elements that I add around the service are:
 - Opening words and welcome
 - The Committal
 - Closing words and thanks
- Other questions I will ask you:
 - If we are at a crematorium, do you want the curtains closed for the committal?
 - Are we live streaming to any family/friends who can't attend?
 - Are you having an Order of Service?
 - What are you having on top of the coffin – any significant flowers? Or are you having something different?
 - Are you having a dress code for mourners? Any special colours?

Information for Service & Eulogy/Tribute

This information helps me to ensure the whole service truly represents your loved one's life and character.

You can fill this in as it is, or if it is easier, then you can write things down and just use these questions to jog your thoughts.

I do not need answers to every question, just answer those that you can. The first set of questions are just the basic facts. The second set of questions will help fill out the facts and ensure that the service truly celebrates your loved one – again – you don't need to answer everything. If you choose to type into this document, it will just expand as you start writing in each section so write as much or as little as you like.

A eulogy/tribute is rarely a strict chronological account, I will structure it in the best way depending on the information you share with me.

Part One

Place of birth:

Parents: (Please include parents' surname if your loved one had a different surname when they passed)

Brothers & sisters (living or deceased in age order):

Where raised and educated [Primary & secondary education/apprenticeships/further/higher ed]:

Name of spouse/partner: (If more than one over their lifetime, it is helpful to know them all even if I won't be mentioning them)

Where met spouse/partner – their love story if you know it:

Date / Place of Marriage / reception / honeymoon / bridesmaids/best man:

Children in age order from oldest:

Grandchildren: (link them to each of the parents and do them in age order for each)

Extended family who will be at the service and who we should mention:

Key Friends: (They may not be with us anymore, but I can mention any that are special)

Occupations / places of work:

Places lived:

Part Two

Childhood

Any stories from your loved one's childhood we should mention? Schools? Antics? Interests? Things they did with their family? Holidays? Typical Christmas? What family life was like?

Work

Any particular aspects of work that they enjoyed? Did your loved one have different jobs over the years? Friends they made at work? Special achievements? Memorable events? This can go all the way up to retirement. When did they retire?

Early Marriage/Family Life

- What life was like with their spouse/partner before children came along (things they did together? Holidays? Special memories?)
- Having children (things they used to do with their loved one with the children? Special memories? Holidays? Typical things from a weekend/Christmas? Favourite day trips?)
- Hobbies and social life (What did your loved one do for their own enjoyment or with their spouse?)

Time after children have left home:

- Any special family events/memories?
- Holidays/hobbies with or without their spouse?
- Grandchildren/Great Grandchildren: What was your loved one like as a grandparent – any special memories? Any things they used to do especially with them?

Any other special memories?

Final thoughts if not already covered above

- What will your loved one best be remembered for? What will you miss most/Influence on your life?
- Any special/typical sayings they had?
- What was their character & personality?
- When were they at their happiest? What made them laugh the most?
- What do you think they would want to say to all who are present at their funeral?
- What were their beliefs or philosophy on life and death?
- Any special mentions or thanks for people, pets, places, institutions in the eulogy?
- Any things I must not mention but need to be aware of?

This list is not exhaustive – often the most useful pieces of information emerge as you start noting things down or as you chat

Information about your loved one's passing – only fill this in if you want to

Where did they die?

Was anyone present at the time:

Cause of death:

Do we need to thank anyone for particular help and support?

Will you be doing something special with the ashes/Is there something important about where your loved one is being buried?