

What do I ask about when I meet a family?

You do not need to do this in advance at all. You will have a lot to organise and think about while also coming to terms with the loss of your person.

I will aim to gather all the information I need on my visit to ensure that between us we can capture their life and character in a service that is special for them and makes your memories of them sparkle.

You do NOT need to fill this in in advance, you don't even need to read it. I only provide it for if you are the sort of person who likes to prepare or know what to expect.

This form is what I use to help me ensure I have all the information I need. I do not read it out as a questionnaire – when we meet, we chat about the various elements and I use this to make sure I do not forget something crucial.

Initial Details

I will have some of this information from the Funeral Director already. However, the list 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:

Details of their death – as much as you want to share

Day, Date & Time of funeral:

Place of Funeral:

Cremation / Burial

Curtains Open / Closed (cremation only):

Name of Next of Kin/Person organising the funeral - you:

Relationship to the deceased:

Address:

Telephone No's / Email:

Contact details of other relevant persons:

Structure of the service

Do not feel you need to have made firm decisions before I arrive. We can chat everything through and work it out between us. But some families like to know what to think about before they meet with me.

Traditionally a full funeral service – max 30 minutes (Rotherham Crem) or 40 minutes (Memoria at Barnby Dunn or Rose Hill) includes a mixture of the following. However, we can vary this in a range of ways and potentially add in various other elements if you wish.

- Entrance and exit music. Usually the exit music is more uplifting. (A photo of your loved one can be projected onto the screen for these)
- Middle reflection music/hymn(s) – can have slide show over. If service is more than 30 mins we can have two pieces
- One (two if time) poems or readings – I have lots of possibilities. Please avoid getting AI to write something for you.
- Tribute/eulogy – if you wish, this can be read by one person or a few of the family. For most families, I do this for them as their grief is enough to cope with on the day. I can also write the tribute for family members to read if that helps.
- The additional elements that I add around the service are:
 - Opening words and welcome (this can include an invitation to reception and mention of any collection)
 - Introductions to the music/readings/tribute to ensure it all flows and connects to your person
 - Prayers/blessings – if these are relevant to you/your person. The most common one to use is The Lord's Prayer. None of these are essential. All your choice.
 - The committal (if you wish, curtains can be closed at this point – I can read the committal over this or we can have a piece of music or even a sound effect at this point) – this is the formal farewell. It can be linked to a particular faith, be completely nonreligious or something in between. We usually stand for this.
 - Closing words and thanks
- There is a wealth of other elements we could weave into the service if you want other ways to remember and celebrate your loved one – we can discuss when we meet.

Information for Service & Eulogy/Tribute

Even if I am not giving the tribute and you are doing this within the family, it helps me to know this information so that I can ensure the whole service truly represents your loved one's life and character. If you are giving the tribute, I will ask for the text in advance for a number of reasons. I can explain when I see you.

I will not ask the questions below in a strict order at all – I will just ask you to tell me about your loved one and then prompt with questions if I need to. That way it flows much better and little gems of useful information tend to emerge that make the service more special.

I do not need answers to every question and do not feel you need to write anything down in advance. These will just help you to gather your thoughts.

Place of birth

Parents' names:

Position in family, ie oldest/youngest

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

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

Any stories from childhood:

Where met spouse / partner – the love story and courtship:

Date / Place of Marriage / honeymoon /early married life:

Children / Grandchildren:

Extended family: Stepchildren etc

Friends, many or few...any special ones – how they were part of your person's life:

Occupation / place of work and whether they enjoyed work / special achievements etc

Places lived – and significance of any big moves

Hobbies, interests and social life:

Holidays/day trips they enjoyed:

Pets:

What will they best be remembered for?

Any special/typical sayings they had?

What was their character & personality?

When were they at their happiest?

What made them laugh the most?

What will you miss most/Influence on your life?

Each *life* beautifully remembered



How would you describe them – three words?

Special Achievements:

Special Memories

Humorous Memories:

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 piece of information emerge as we chat.

Each *life* beautifully remembered