



Cremation Pre-Planning Guide

Discussing our own mortality is difficult, but lightening some of the future burden of our final affairs from our loved ones makes it well worthwhile. Whenever possible, final disposition and memorialization wishes should be discussed openly and frankly.

A death in a family may create problems for survivors that could be alleviated by discussion and pre-planning. We recommend consulting those who will be most affected by the loss, and allowing them the opportunity to be participants in the decision making process, when appropriate. Pre-planning enables you to make all of your decisions pertaining to death now, thus assuring your personal wishes are carried out, while at the same time relieving your family of this responsibility.

“Only by being prepared for your death can you ever truly live.”

– Christopher Moore

To learn more, click: [**www.delvalcremation.com**](http://www.delvalcremation.com)

Some important considerations when beginning this process are:

1. Memorializing or celebrating someone's life can be conducted in any manner and in any place that is appropriately meaningful to you and your friends and family.
2. A casket is not required for a cremation to take place. In most states, all that is required is an alternative container which can be constructed of wood or cardboard, and is cremated along with the deceased.
3. Embalming is absolutely not required prior to cremation. Public health law states that "any human remains held 24 hours beyond death, and not yet cremated or interred at a cemetery, shall be either embalmed, or kept under refrigeration." (Most reputable crematories have on-site refrigeration.) The decedent may be removed from refrigeration for a period of up to five hours to allow for family and friends to view them if so desired.
4. In most situations, the cremation provider will permit family members to be in attendance when the body is placed into the cremation chamber. (Actually, a few religious groups include this as integral part of their funeral practice.) This can help provide a greater sense of closure and confidence in seeing things through and being there with the deceased throughout....even if just by one designated person.
5. After the cremation, the cremated remains may be returned to a designated family member or friend to be kept at home, scattered or buried on private property, or released to a cemetery for burial or above-ground entombment. Cremated remains are often divided to satisfy various memorialization requests by selected family and/or friends. There are smaller urns and even jewelry which hold "keepsake" portions of cremated remains. Cremation offers infinite possibilities to memorialize a loved one.....whatever you believe to be most appropriate and most meaningful.

FINAL ARRANGEMENT PREFERENCES

I would like to let my immediate family have the opportunity to view my body if they feel the need to do so: **Y / N**

I would like to have a public viewing: **Y / N**

I would like to have a gathering/service with my body present prior to cremation: **Y / N**

I would like to have a gathering/service with my urn present after the cremation: **Y / N**

The type of service/celebration of my life that I would like conducted would be:

Religious / Non-Religious

I would like my service to be held at:

I would like to have an obituary in the following newspapers/websites:

(Attached is what I want printed/posted)

I would like there to be a reception/gathering with food and drink

at

After the Service / Instead of a Service / Not at All

I would like to have the following done with my cremated remains:

(PLEASE CIRCLE)

Bury / Scatter (Sea, Mountains, Property, etc.) / Keep at Home / Divide

(Specific Instructions)

To learn more, click: [**www.delvalcremation.com**](http://www.delvalcremation.com)

PERSONAL DATA

My full name: _____

My birth date: _____

My place of birth: _____

My race: _____

My social security number: _____

My marital status: _____

My spouse's full name: *(If female, please include maiden name)*

My father's full name:

My mother's full name: *(Please include maiden name)*

The highest education level I have completed is:

If a veteran, my service number, branch, and rank:

_____, _____, _____

My military discharge papers are located:

I have most recently been employed as a(n): _____

with: _____ Phone: _____

My mailing address is:

My residential address is:

My next of kin is:

_____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

To learn more, click: [**www.delvalcremation.com**](http://www.delvalcremation.com)

ESTATE INFORMATION

I have asked _____ to settle
my estate.

My will is located, and my other important personal papers are stored, at

My life insurance policy(s) is with

and stored at

Any pension statements and/or death benefit records I may have are stored at

I have given my power of attorney to

_____ who can be reached at:

To learn more, click: [***www.delvalcremation.com***](http://www.delvalcremation.com)

MY BUSINESS ADVISORS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Attorney: _____

Banker: _____

Other: _____

Other: _____

Other: _____

Other: _____

Other: _____

PERSONS TO BE NOTIFIED:

The following people should be notified in the event of my death:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Additional names are attached

To learn more, click: [**www.delvalcremation.com**](http://www.delvalcremation.com)

[illegible]