

Conference on Aging

YOUR GOING AWAY PARTY FAQ (Compiled by Kel McBride)

Can I have a funeral at home?

While each state has different laws about death certificates, moving the body, and final disposition it is possible to have a highly personal service in the comfort of the home. In Indiana, the family will need to work with a funeral director. Home funerals can allow more time with the body and the ability to care for the body. Choosing this option can give us a greater connection to the cycle of life.

Do I have to have a funeral in a funeral home?

If the body is not present a visitation or funeral can occur anywhere in any form of event space. This option often allows for greater connections and can be more comfortable because emotions aren't as overwhelmed as when the body is present families appreciate events outside of the funeral home because the environment is more relaxed.

How can I help friends and family who live far away to participate?

A delayed event allows for more planning and personalization, the option to choose a specific meaningful date, better weather, and more people to plan to attend. There is no need to cancel long-made plans or pull kids out of school urgently. And of course, waiting allows for easier and more affordable travel. For example, I just looked to see how much it would cost me to get to San Francisco tomorrow (\$1,000) compared to next week (\$800) or three months from now (\$415).

For about a decade, funeral directors and mourners have commonly been livestreaming funerals. This gives anyone, with access to the internet, the ability to connect to the experience. For just a few hundred dollars the funeral home or a private company can capture the moments. Some funeral homes even offer it for free.

The idea of a photographer at a funeral is different. It just isn't common and has this creepy feeling it could be too "CHEESEY". But before you dismiss the idea take a moment to considering capturing the event because those images will be appreciated later. If for no other reason that everyone is together and dressed up.

The focus is on the living and the space created in your honor. Images of the venue, flower arrangements, candles, and other elements capture the surroundings of the day. A strong focus toward candid photography captures moments and emotions.

This idea comes with a strong admonition: Hire a Professional!

Funeral photography is not a role for the budding photographer in your family, or even a newer professional. The skill set needed here goes beyond technique and basic public niceties. They need a clear eye for emotion and great dexterity at being unobtrusive. Ideally you are looking for someone who has done this work before. You will want to see examples and testimonials. A great reason to plan who will do this in advance.

How do I know how much to pay for funeral services?

The Funeral Consumer Alliance and Everest offer nationwide databases of funeral prices and life insurance program. I highly recommend doing a "shop before you drop" review of pricing and options.

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