

Funeral Checklist

The first few hours and days after the death of a loved one are understandably the hardest. During these first moments, the mind is very much still in shock. It's hard to process what's happened, who's been lost, and where to go from here.

While life (and death) is hard to simplify into a series of check boxes, we've done our best to outline the next steps in as much detail as possible.

Step 1. (24 hours after death)

Get a legal pronouncement of death .
Contact friends, family, and employers.
Find any existing funeral documentations , plans, life insurance, etc. If there are no existing plans, talk to friends and family about what they would have wanted.
Secure their property: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lock up their home, vehicle, etc. • Have someone care for children, pets, plants, etc. • Get the mail, throw out food in the fridge, and secure valuables.

Step 2. Plan the funeral

Choose a funeral home .
Make decisions about the funeral service: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where will the service be held? • Will this be a virtual or hybrid funeral? • When will you hold the service? • What is your budget? • Who will officiate the service?
Make decisions about the final resting place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cremation vs. burial? • Pick a casket, plot, urn, etc.

Step 3. Final preparations

Write or hire someone to write an obituary or death announcement.
Invite guests to the funeral service.
Prepare for the funeral: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Order flowers • Prepare decorations and signage • Create a funeral schedule • Plan transportation for the deceased, family, escorts, etc.
Plan a post-funeral reception or repast .
In the weeks following, there are additional steps to take outside of funeral planning. Explore Cake's full list of resources for additional support.

The Cake team is always here to help. [Visit our website](#) or send an email to support@joincake.com.