

Keeping the deceased at home

It is possible for the body of the deceased to be kept at home until the funeral, although some thought should be given to the temperature of the room in which the body is to be kept and the reactions of other family members.

Where to find further information

Other leaflets are available on a range of topics from Registration/Bereavement Services.

In particular, you might also find the following leaflets useful:

- Registering a Death
- Buying a Grave
- Green Funerals
- Laying out and caring for the deceased
- Civil Funerals
- Arranging a Secular Service
- Environmentally Friendly Coffins
- Choosing a Memorial

For further information on other leaflets available, or if you require any additional information, please contact us:

Bereavement Services
Nightingale House
Balaclava Street
Stockton-on-Tees
TS18 2AL

Bereavement Services: (01642) 527341/42

Email:

bereavement.services@stockton.gov.uk

www.stockton.gov.uk/bereavementservices

If you would like this information in any other format or languages please contact 'Bereavement Services' on (01642) 527341/42

إذا كنت ترغب الحصول على هذه المعلومات بلغات أو بأشكال أخرى على سبيل المثال بالطبعة الكبيرة أو بالشرائط المسجل فالرجاء الإتصال 'بدايفرستى تيمز' (Bereavement Services) على هاتف رقم 01642 527341/42 ARABIC

欲要這份資訊的其它語言版或其它版式例如大字體印刷/錄音帶，請致電 01642 527341/42 接洽 '多元化隊' (Bereavement Services) MANDARIN

اگر شما این اطلاعات را به زبان یا شکل دیگری مثل چاپ بزرگ یا بصورت صدا میخواهید لطفاً با تیم نایورسیتی (گوناگونی) (Bereavement Services) با شماره 01642 527341/42 به تماس شوید FARSI

Si vous souhaitez obtenir ces informations dans d'autres langues ou sous un autre format, par exemple, en gros caractères / version audio, veuillez contacter l'équipe "Bereavement Services" au n° 016 42 52 73 41/42 FRENCH

ئەگەر تۆزەت لىن يە نەم زاسارى بە دەستت بەگەوتت بە زمانە كاسى نى ريان بە شىووە بە كى تر بۆ نمونە چاپى گەورە/بان بە تىبى تۆماركراو تىكابه بە يوهەندى بەگە بە تىمى دايفرستى (Bereavement Services) لە سەر ژمارەى تەلەفۆن 01642 527341/42 KURDISH

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਬਣਤਰ ਜਾਂ ਢੰਗ ਵਿੱਚ, ਵੱਡੀ ਛਪਾਈ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਾਂ ਟੇਪ/ਸੀ ਡੀ 'ਤੇ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 'Bereavement Services' ਨੂੰ 01642 527341/42 ਨੰਬਰ ਉੱਤੇ ਫ਼ੋਨ ਕਰੋ। PUNJABI

اگر آپ ان معلومات کو کسی بھی اور زبان یا انداز، مثلاً بڑے پرنٹ/آڈیو ٹیپ وغیرہ میں حاصل کرنا چاہتے ہیں، تو 'ڈايفرستى تيمز' (Bereavement Services) کو اس نمبر پر فون کیجئے 01642 527341/42 URDU



Independent Funerals

A brief guide to funerals without a funeral director



What is an independent funeral?

Funeral directors complete the majority of funerals, providing the coffin, hearse and limousines, making arrangements with the cemetery or crematorium, organising notices in newspapers and ordering floral tributes, This is often referred to as the 'package' funeral and is designed for those who wish to leave everything to the funeral director.

Many people do not realise that it is possible to make arrangements for a funeral directly with the cemetery or crematorium, using a funeral director only for certain aspects of the funeral, or in some cases, not using a funeral director at all.

Funerals organised with limited or no use of a funeral director are known as 'independent funerals'.

Why arrange an Independent Funeral?

The package funeral will usually follow a formal Victorian pattern, which can allow a family little involvement in the funeral arrangements, other than selecting from the available options. While the package funeral is likely to be professional and dignified, an independent funeral can offer greater flexibility and personal involvement and can reduce the cost of the funeral quite significantly.

Although this approach will require you to spend time making all of the necessary arrangements, it also increases your

involvement and can make the funeral more personal and meaningful. If you choose not to use a funeral director at all, you can also ensure that no strangers handle the body of the deceased.

If this type of funeral appeals to you, we, or any of our local crematoria can offer you guidance on the documentation and identification of the coffin that will be needed for the cremation or burial; our contact details can be found on the reverse of this leaflet.

Transporting the deceased

An estate car or a van will usually be suitable for transporting the body of the deceased, however, if you do not have access to a suitable vehicle or do not wish to be involved in this particular aspect of the arrangements, this may be contracted to a funeral director, or perhaps a care hire company.

It should be remembered that if you choose to make your own arrangements for transporting the deceased, you will also need to identify suitable people to act as bearers to carry the coffin.

Holding the Ceremony

There are a number of choices for the style and content of the funeral ceremony; a ceremony may be religious, non-religious, or a combination of religious or secular content. You may also wish to see our leaflet "Civil Funerals". The fees for funeral ceremonies conducted by a religious leader

or professional celebrant range from around £70 to £150, although there is no reason why a family member or friend could not conduct the ceremony. Most crematoria, however, allow between 20 and 30 minutes for a funeral ceremony, including the time it takes for mourners to enter and exit the chapel, so the ceremony should be planned very carefully.

The Room of Remembrance at our Billingham Cemetery is available for ceremonies.

Coffins

Traditional veneered and solid wood coffins are available from most funeral directors, ranging from around £500 to over £2,000. A range of alternative, more environmentally friendly coffins may also be available through a funeral director or can be purchased on-line. The Bereavement Services Section is also able to supply cardboard, papier mâché and willow coffins.

Mortuaries

Generally, those arranging funerals independently leave the deceased's body at the mortuary until the day of the funeral. If the deceased died in hospital, it is usually possible for the body to remain at the hospital mortuary until the funeral, however, most funeral directors will also be able to provide mortuary facilities if the deceased did not die in hospital. Please also see our leaflet 'Laying out and caring for the deceased'.

