



2001 Columbus Avenue • Sandusky, Ohio 44870 • (419) 625-8816 • toftfuneralhome.com

Funeral Planning Guide

It's about bringing those you love together, at a time of loss. It's a natural thing to do, and over time, has become a socially-expected practice. More importantly, a funeral or memorial service, whether traditional, or contemporary, is the **first step in healing**.

Create Healing Experiences

In the depth of early grief, you might think that it would be 'easier' to just take care of things as simply – and as quickly – as possible. But easier – especially in this circumstance – simply isn't better. You must set the stage for the future by giving your family and friends the opportunity to start the healing process.



Burial or Cremation?

Your next consideration focuses on choosing between burial and cremation. Usually, people are clear on this point. In fact, your loved one may have told you, or someone else, exactly how they wish to be cared for. But it can be a hard decision for some families, especially when the wishes of the deceased were never clearly stated. If that's the case, please know we're able to help you come to the perfect decision for your loved one, and for you.

Funeral Services



Gathering with friends and family gives everyone the opportunity to share memories, express emotions, and find comforting support. Whether you choose burial or cremation; whether you select a

formal funeral or a more relaxed memorial service, the need for acknowledgment of the loss with family and friends is ever present. We can help you create a unique meaningful ceremony to express the genuine individuality of your loved one.

Arranging the Funeral - 6 Simple Questions

1. **Do you want a Viewing?** The funeral director will ask you this question right away, because it is important to know whether or not your loved one needs to be embalmed (which most often happens right away).

a. Public or private?

b. Where will you have the viewing (funeral home, church, or somewhere else)?

c. We will always do what is possible to accommodate your family's needs. However, every consideration should be given to having the viewing within 7 calendar days from the date of your loved one's death.



2. **Burial or Cremation?** Know that your decision here simply refers to what you do with your loved one's physical remains. **See more on the next page.**

3. **Do you want a Funeral or Memorial Service?**

a. A funeral service is the term used when your loved one's whole body is present. A memorial service is the term used when your loved one's whole body is not present.

b. Public or private?

c. Where will you have the service (funeral home, church, cemetery, or somewhere else)?

4. **What merchandise do you need/want?**

a. Caskets, outer burial containers (vaults), urns, keepsake pendants, fingerprint keepsakes, memorial stationary, tribute videos, and more

5. **Who else do you need to pay?**

a. Cemetery, newspapers, clergy, musicians/organists, flowers, death certificates, hairstylists, honor guards, and more

b. Funeral homes often help you with these other expenses, called cash advances. The funeral home would pay these items for you, receiving reimbursement via the funeral bill.

6. **How do you pay?** We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to serve your family during your time of need. At Toft Funeral Home & Crematory, it is our goal to assist every family, regardless of their financial resources. We have a range of payment options that can meet any family's needs.

Toft Funeral Home & Crematory requires all arrangements for the full payment of the funeral be finalized prior to the Funeral Home making any arrangements to conduct a visitation, funeral or memorial services. Be sure to let us know if you are working with a budget. We can do our best to help you select services that fit your budget.

Burial Services

Usually any ceremonies we design revolve around the casket being present. You can choose to follow tradition, with a viewing, and then a funeral service in a church or memorial chapel. Or you could decide to have a more relaxed service, even in your family home.

Let's just say this: there is no 'hard and fast' formula for honoring your loved one when burial has been selected. We're here to listen to your concerns, share our experience, and help you to arrive at the perfect way to gather together before your loved one's interment in the cemetery of your choice.



Caskets & Outer Burial Containers* "Vaults"

We know that, in today's economy, it's imperative that you know what options are available to you. Naturally we're always here to answer your questions.

*In our area of the country, most cemeteries require the purchase of an outer burial container. This protects the ground from sinking under the weight of heavy machinery and other natural forces. Vaults are constructed to meet cemetery requirements and provide protection for your loved one inside.



Wood (Warm, Natural Beauty)

Mahogany & Cherry
Oak, Maple & Pecan
Poplar, Pine & Ash
Veneer

Metal (Variety, Personalized)
Bronze & Copper
Stainless & 16 gauge Steel
18 gauge Steel
20 gauge Steel



Cremation Services

Cremation only refers to the manner in which you or your loved one has chosen to deal with the physical remains. We want you to know that this decision doesn't limit the ways you can honor your loved one's life. We heartily suggest that you have a funeral or memorial service, because your need for such a healing experience is not lessened by the decision to be cremated.

Before... When you choose to have a viewing prior to cremation you will select a casket that best suits your needs. If you don't have a viewing, then you will select an alternative container.



Cremation-Acceptable: Hardwood, Veneer & Cloth Covered; Alternative Container; Rental Casket

...and After What will you do after the cremation? The answer to this question will help you decide on the right urn and/or keepsake items for you. Will you scatter, keep, or permanently memorialize in a cemetery ground plot or columbarium niche?

Considerations

When a Death Occurs...

At Home or At Work

When a death occurs at home or in the workplace, a family member or co-worker should contact emergency personnel and the person's physician before the deceased is removed. If in any case you are not sure of who to notify or what to do, you may call (419) 625-8816, and we'll assist you in notifying the proper agencies.

While Under Supervised Care

When a death occurs in a hospital, nursing home, or under hospice care, the professional staff will notify you and the necessary authorities. If the name of the funeral home has been left with them, the institution will notify the funeral home at the time of the death. The funeral director will contact you immediately following their notification to help you proceed. (However, we suggest you contact us immediately at (419) 625-8816, so you've got the reassurance you need that all is taken care of properly.)

Out of Town

Do not call more than one funeral home. Contact Toft Funeral Home & Crematory immediately at (419) 625-8816. We will assume responsibility and coordinate the arrangements for the return of your loved one. We may engage the services of a funeral director in the place of death who will act as our agent.

Children

When your child dies, the pain and overwhelming. Because of the intensity of may not be fully able to comprehend all and emotions are all a normal and natural love. Be sure to contact Toft at (419) 625-staff, we not only care for your child, but gentle hand to suggest ways you might pain every day, but the pain of losing a child and do everything in our power to help you



devastation of your loss can feel all of the emotions you are feeling, you that you are experiencing. These feelings response to the death of someone you 8816. With our caring and compassionate also for you. You need guidance and a mourn for your loss. We deal with families' is especially strong. We understand this through this difficult time.

Veterans

They served our country and often made the ultimate sacrifice to defend our freedom and way of life. At Toft Funeral Home & Crematory we understand the special needs of veterans' families. Whether it is a simple family funeral or a full military service, we would like the opportunity to serve you and our country by honoring your loved one.



toftfuneralhome.com

