

Planning a funeral

Respecting the deceased's wishes

Are there any documents setting out the deceased's wishes regarding their funeral? Did the deceased leave a funeral plan or funeral insurance?

Required documents for your consultation

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| ☐ Birth certificate, if single | ☐ Health insurance number |
| ☐ Marriage certificate, if married | ☐ Pension numbers |
| ☐ Death certificate, if widowed | ☐ Insurance documents if available |
| ☐ Divorce decree, if divorced | ☐ Grave documents, if available |
| ☐ Personalausweis or Aufenthaltstitel | |

Deciding on the final resting place

Place of funeral and burial	- Where should the final resting place be? - If the deceased is to be laid to rest elsewhere, we would be happy to arrange for them to be transferred to their final resting place or to contact a local funeral director.
Burial	- Is there a family grave? How long is the contract valid for, and does it need to be renewed? - Different cemeteries offer different options.
Cremation	- Cremation requires a smaller grave for urns. - Different cemeteries offer different options, such as "easy to care for" graves.
Woodland burials	- Woodland burials under trees. Here, it is also possible to hold a funeral service with a minister or a non-religious service. - Nearest woodland cemeteries: FriedWald Weilrod or Taunusstein, Terra Levis Wiesbaden, Usingen-Merzhausen Naturfriedhof
Funeral at sea	In a burial at sea, the ashes of the deceased are placed in a special sea urn in the North Sea, the Baltic Sea or one of the world oceans. If they wish, relatives may attend the farewell ceremony on board the ship.
Maintaining and caring for the gravesite	Grave maintenance and care: You can take care of the grave maintenance yourself, or the cemetery gardener can do it for you. The price depends on the size of the grave and the cemetery. Stonemason: We are happy to refer you to local stonemasons if you wish to place a headstone on the grave, or add new inscription to an existing gravestone. The price depends on the size and type of stone.

Arranging and organising the funeral service and burial

Choosing the date	• Funeral date – Which date and time is suitable for you? • Choosing a coffin or urn – Visit us at Hauptstraße 32, we offer an extensive range of coffins and urns. In the case of cremation, a simple coffin is used for the cremation. • Can we say goodbye to our loved one? You are welcome to see the deceased one last time and say goodbye surrounded by family and friends. Our premises at Mammolshainer Weg 1 are available for this purpose. We can also organise a funeral service there for up to 20 guests. • We will contact the vicar or other clergy for a church service, or organise a celebrant for a non-denominational service. We work with all parishes and independent celebrants.
Organising the service	• Choosing floral coffin or urn decorations – we'd be happy to arrange this for you, we work with all florists in the local area. • You can include a photograph or personal items at the funeral service. • Which music would you like? Would you like organ music, music played through a sound system and/or other musicians to perform at the funeral service? • It is also possible to hold the actual burial with just close family, and organise a funeral service or memorial service before or after the burial for the wider family, friends, colleagues and acquaintances.
Discuss programme and eulogy with celebrant	• Discuss the programme and content of the service and the eulogy. Some helpful questions to keep in mind are: ○ What were the most significant events in the deceased's life, both personally and professionally? ○ When was he or she happiest? ○ What did he or she particularly enjoy doing? ○ What advice did he or she pass on to those around him or her?
Reception/ Wake	• Would you like to host a reception after the funeral? • Where would you like to hold it? A restaurant, a café, at home, or in a function room? • Should all guests be invited, or just a select group?

Printed materials – informing people of the bereavement and funeral

Notifying relatives and friends	• Would you like to place a notice/obituary in a local or national newspaper? • To inform relatives, friends and acquaintances, death notices (funeral invitations) are sent out. We have a range of templates available for you and would be happy to advise you on your choice. We can also address and post the notices for you, if you wish. • Similarly, we can help you design and send thank-you cards after the funeral.
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Financials

Costs	• The cost of a funeral depends on how large and elaborate the service is, and where it takes place. Generally speaking, the costs consist of: - o Our services (advice, care of the deceased, coffin, urn, etc.) - o Local authority fees (death certificates, cemetery fees, cremation fees, etc.) - o Expenses for other service providers (post-mortem examination, printed materials, obituaries, flowers, etc.) Transparency is important to us and we are happy to give you a quote for our services and third-party fees.
Funeral plans/ insurance	• Did the deceased have a funeral plan or funeral benefit insurance? • Some occupational pension schemes also pay out a funeral benefit or a contribution towards funeral costs.