



Q. How long does a funeral ceremony usually last?

A. Most funerals last about 20 to 30 minutes but if you feel that this will not be long enough for the service, the chapel may be booked for a longer period.

Q. May I choose you as celebrant or do I have to use the celebrant recommended by the funeral director?

A. You may choose your own celebrant and inform your funeral director accordingly. You are not at all obliged to use the celebrant recommended by the funeral director.

Q. Who pays the funeral celebrant?

A. If the celebrant is arranged by the funeral director then her/his fee is paid by them. The celebrant's fee will be itemised in the funeral director's account. However, if you choose me as your celebrant you pay me directly – either in cash or via EFT.

Q. Will you visit me in my home to discuss the content of the funeral service / Celebration of Life Ceremony?

A. Yes of course, I will visit you in your home to discuss the funeral service / ceremony.

Q. How will you dress in your role as celebrant?

A. I will dress in a professional manner to show respect to the occasion. If you have a special request (eg you've asked guests to dress in a particular colour or way), I will do my best to comply with your wishes)

Q. Will you help us with the choice of readings and music for the service?

A. As your celebrant I have many resources available and will be able to suggest readings and music. Discussion and recommendations can take place when I visit you to plan the service.

Q. Can we write the eulogy? Or do you?

A. This is a personal choice of the family. You may have someone who wants to prepare and deliver the eulogy. As your celebrant I can write it, given information about your loved one's life OR I can suggest edits if someone else wishes to draft/write it. I can deliver it as part of the ceremony OR the person who wrote it OR another family member can deliver it. I'm happy to assist in any way I can.

Q. Is it appropriate for family members or friends to give a eulogy or a reading?

A. It is very appropriate for family members or friends to participate in the service as it makes it more personal. Discuss this with me and I can advise the best way to incorporate readings / eulogies /a blessing into the service / ceremony.

Q. Why should I use a celebrant who is a member of Funeral Celebrants Association Australia?

A. Members of FCAA have agreed to a Code of Practice and undertake to complete yearly Professional Development in order to be accepted by FCAA. I am a member of the Association.

Q. Is it possible for us to have an audio-visual presentation about the life of our loved one?

A. Many chapels and funeral venues do have facilities for DVD. Tell your funeral director if you want to be able to show a pictorial montage of you loved one's life. They will manage the process on the day during the service.

Q. Should younger members of the family be included in giving a reading?

A. Younger members can participate if they are willing and if you think they can manage. I will be there to make sure that their contribution is supported. Sometimes, it is better for two younger people to do a joint reading or joint tribute, where they support each other.

Q. Will you include religious content in the funeral service if that's what our family wants?

A. I'm very happy to include religious content if that is what the family wants. Many people, while having no special church affiliation, take comfort from some religious content in the service / ceremony. Others feel that a religious component will comfort other family members. Discuss this with me and I can offer suggestions.

Q. Is it possible to include culturally appropriate symbols, rituals, music or readings in the funeral service?

A. Culturally appropriate rituals are appropriate within the restrictions of the chapel. Discuss this with me and I can offer suggestions.

Q. What if our loved one was a returned serviceman or woman?

A. There is a standard format for inclusion in the service for returned servicemen and women. Usually a representative of the RSL will attend the funeral and help with the appropriate recognition of your loved one's military service.

Q. Will you help us with the design of a Ceremony Programme for the mourners attending the service?

A. The family usually prepares the Order of Service or Funeral Programme after discussion with me - once the service or ceremony is completed. Either the family or the Funeral Director will print the Order of Service.

Q. Will you give us a presentation copy of the service?

A. Of course, I will give you a bound presentation copy of the funeral service / Celebration of Life Ceremony as a memento. I will also provide you with a pdf e-copy so that it may be distributed to family members who perhaps cannot be present due to illness, or who live interstate or overseas.

Q. What qualifications do funeral celebrants have?

A. Most FCAA celebrants have completed accredited training as a funeral celebrant and have extensive experience in conducting ceremonies. Many are registered marriage celebrants as well. I have a Certificate IV in Celebrancy and have been an Authorised Marriage Celebrant (also conducting Naming Ceremonies, Commitment Ceremonies, Funeral Ceremonies) since 2006.

I am a current member of the Funeral Celebrants Association of Australia and a member of the Marriage Celebrants Association of WA.

Q. How do I remove the digital footprint of my loved one after death?

A. Your relative may have left instructions. However, there is an online service which allows grieving families to decide what happens to their loved one's social networks after they are gone. There is a cost involved in this service. www.eclosure.com.au

Q. Can we release balloons, doves or butterflies at a funeral or memorial service?

A. Some states, territories and/or local councils have regulations about the release of such items. Check with your funeral director about regulations at your chosen venue and in the Shire .

Q. Do you have another question that has not been covered here?

A. Please contact me and I will endeavour to help you.

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