

Robin Heppell's Choices for Funerals and Cremation Services Worksheet

Section	Choices that need to be made	Status			
Disposition	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Burial</u> When the deceased person's body is interred (buried) in the ground in a casket and vault at cemetery of choice.	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Cremation</u> When the deceased person's body is reduced to small bone fragments through intense heat and flame.	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Entombment</u> When the deceased person's body is placed in an above-ground crypt in a mausoleum or private monument estate.	<input type="checkbox"/> Decided <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided <input type="checkbox"/> Need More Info	
If Cremation	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Interment of Urn</u> When the urn is placed in a burial or cremation plot at a cemetery. An urn vault may be necessary.	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Columbaria Niche</u> When the urn is placed in an above-ground, outdoor niche (columbarium) or indoor mausoleum crypt.	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Scatter Remains</u> When the cremated remains are scattered in a desired location. This can be in multiple locations.	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Take Urn Home</u> When the urn is taken home. This choice is not a final disposition as future survivors are responsible.	<input type="checkbox"/> Decided <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided <input type="checkbox"/> Need More Info
Service Types	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Celebration of Life</u> : contemporary service, deceased focused, includes participation from others <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Traditional Service</u> : more formal, usually more religious than Celebration – often at church <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Memorial Reception</u> : when formal service isn't requested, family/friends gather, share stories <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Graveside Service</u> : no formal service, family gather at cemetery for casket/urn to be buried <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Disposition Only</u> : when family doesn't want any service or social gathering			<input type="checkbox"/> Decided <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided <input type="checkbox"/> Need More Info	
Officiant	<input type="checkbox"/> Priest <input type="checkbox"/> Minister <input type="checkbox"/> Pastor <input type="checkbox"/> Chaplain <input type="checkbox"/> Celebrant <input type="checkbox"/> Family Members Choose your own Clergy or use one our Celebrants who help you create a meaningful tribute			<input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/> N	
Participants	<input type="checkbox"/> Eulogy <input type="checkbox"/> Bible <input type="checkbox"/> Poems <input type="checkbox"/> Prayers <input type="checkbox"/> Candle Lighting <input type="checkbox"/> Balloon Release Names of participants:			<input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/> N	
Music	Live music: <input type="checkbox"/> Organist <input type="checkbox"/> Harpist <input type="checkbox"/> Bag Piper <input type="checkbox"/> Soloist Recorded music: <input type="checkbox"/> Family will supply <input type="checkbox"/> Funeral home to supply			<input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/> N	
Receptions / Gatherings	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Public Reception</u> : everyone welcome, usually announced in the obit or at the service <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Private / Semi-Private</u> : not announced publicly – invitation only by family <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Family Meal</u> : between visitations at the funeral home or at a restaurant <input type="checkbox"/> <u>No Reception</u> : if the family chooses not to have a Public, Private or Family Meal Location of Reception/Gathering: <input type="checkbox"/> Family Home <input type="checkbox"/> Funeral Home <input type="checkbox"/> Other Location _____			<input type="checkbox"/> Decided <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided <input type="checkbox"/> Need More Info	
Merchandise Caskets/Containers	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Cremation Container</u> Basic container made from cardboard / pressboard. Not suitable for viewing.	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Rental Casket</u> Casket with removable liner used for visitation / service before cremation	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Hardwood Casket</u> Casket made from hardwood. Can be used for burial or cremation.	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Steel Casket</u> Casket made from steel. Can be used for burial only.	<input type="checkbox"/> Decided <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided <input type="checkbox"/> Need More Info
Cremation Urns	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood <input type="checkbox"/> Metal / Bronze <input type="checkbox"/> Scattering <input type="checkbox"/> Ornate <input type="checkbox"/> Urn Vault (for Interment)			<input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/> N	
Burial Vaults	<input type="checkbox"/> Sealed Concrete Vault <input type="checkbox"/> Air Sealed Steel Vault <input type="checkbox"/> Unsealed Graveliner			<input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/> N	
Cemetery Markers	<input type="checkbox"/> Upright Granite Monument <input type="checkbox"/> Flat Granite Marker <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze on Granite Base			<input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/> N	
Additional Service and Memorialization Options	<input type="checkbox"/> Flowers <input type="checkbox"/> Celebration of Life DVD tribute video <input type="checkbox"/> Online obituary (complimentary) <input type="checkbox"/> Thank you cards & Prayer cards		<input type="checkbox"/> Granite memorial bench <input type="checkbox"/> Memorialization / cremation Jewelry <input type="checkbox"/> Bereavement groups & assistance <input type="checkbox"/> Tribute blanket		

I hope that you have found this document helpful in the decision-making process. The intent of this document is to help you make some of the main decisions and for the more specific details, consult with your funeral or cremation professional.