

Planning Ahead: A Simple Checklist

Document your wishes

Write down preferences for burial or cremation, service type, and memorialization.

Choose a cemetery and interment option

Select burial, cremation interment, natural burial, or columbarium, and record the location.

Discuss your wishes with loved ones

Ensure family members know your preferences and where documents are kept.

Select a funeral home

Note the funeral home you would like contacted at the time of death.

Gather vital documents

Organize items such as your will, power of attorney, birth certificate, and insurance policies.

Record personal information

Include full legal name, date and place of birth, marital status, and next of kin.

Make financial arrangements

Decide how funeral and cemetery expenses will be covered and note relevant accounts or policies.

List key contacts

Identify who should be notified, including executor, family members, lawyer, and financial advisors.

Plan for dependents and pets

Document care arrangements if applicable.

Store everything in one place

Keep documents and instructions in a clearly marked, accessible location.

Thoughtful preparation today helps preserve dignity, clarity, and peace of mind for those who will one day carry out your wishes.