Making Decisions about Memorial and Funeral Services

Continua HOSPICE LEARNING

If you are thinking about memorial planning, the following questions may help you decide what is important to you and share that information with friends or family members who will be involved in making decisions. Use the questions to start a conversation or as a worksheet to guide you in writing down your ideas.

1. Would you like an obituary in the newspaper, church bulletin, etc.? What would you like it to say or include such as place of residence, occupation, school attended, and memberships in associations or clubs, religion, interests, survivors, contributions, place of burial?

   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

2. After your death, how would you like to be memorialized (funeral, memorial service, celebration of life, etc.)? Do you have specific wishes about how you would like it to be carried out?

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   _____
   _____
   _____

3. What are some of the things you would like your friends and family to remember about you?

   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

4. Have you made final (funeral, memorial service) arrangements? Have you made arrangements for your final resting place?
   If yes, with which mortuary/funeral home did you make these arrangements? Where is the paperwork?

   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

5. If not, where would you like your final resting place to be (cemetery, scatter ashes, urn and kept with family, memorial garden)?

   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

6. Do you prefer cremation or burial? Do you have a burial plot?

   _____
   _____

7. Are there any special clothes you would like to wear for burial/cremation?

   _____
   _____

8. If burial, is there anything you would like with you?

   _____
   _____

9. Do you want a headstone, and if so, what would you like it to say?

   _____
   _____
   _____

10. Do you have a place of worship where you would like the funeral/memorial service to occur?

_____

_____

11. Do you have a preference for clergy?

_____

_____

12. Would you like a eulogy to be said? Who would you want to deliver your eulogy? What would you want to be said in your eulogy?

_____

_____

_____

13. Do you have favorite songs, prayers, readings, rituals, or sacraments that would honor your life and help us remember you?

_____

_____

14. Do you want flowers or would you like donations to be given to a charity in your honor?

_____

_____

15. If you would like flowers, what are your choices?

_____

_____

16. If you prefer donations, to which charity should the donations to be made?

_____

_____

17. Do you have any other special wishes?

_____

_____

Your Hospice Care Team Can Help

Your hospice team is available to support you in considering all of your options for treatments and advance planning. We can provide information, counseling, and encouragement and will respect your values and priorities. If there are things you prefer not to discuss, we honor that choice and will follow your lead. We are here to help you live your life your way. Call anytime.

Things to Find	Check When Found	Location of the Information
Pre-Planning and Advance Directives		
Living will (Documents indicating wishes regarding end of life care)		
Health care surrogate (designated person to make health care decisions when you can no longer make your own)		
Power of Attorney (Legal document indicating who is able to make financial decisions on behalf of another person)		
Memorial, Funeral, or Other Arrangements (arrangements for final resting place and service)		
Identification		
Birth Certificate (Provides accurate record of date of birth, maiden name, parents information, etc. Helpful with writing obituary.)		
Social Security Number (needed for death benefits)		
Passport, Immigration and Naturalization certificate		
Marriage License (Divorce Certificate if applicable)		
Guardianship papers (Legal document indicating who has the right to make decisions for a person who cannot make decisions for him/herself)		
Insurance policies: Health, Accident, Disability, and/or Life		
VA claim number or honorable discharge certificate (Important for getting death benefits)		
Affiliations		
Social or religious (Clubs, Lodges, church, Hall, Mosque, Synagogue etc)		
Spouse(s), children, family members, clergy, friends employer or business colleagues (List their names, phone number and address)		
Education and military records		

Assets/Debts		
Banking: checking accounts, money market accounts, savings accounts, IRAs, CDs (certificate of deposit), others?		
Annuities, mutual fund shares, stocks, bonds, others?		
Safe deposit box (location of box and key)		
Last Will and Testament and lawyer's/executor's name, phone number and address		
Loans: credit cards, installment payments (list where to send payments, amount of payment, for how long, and when payments are due), others?		
Income: Insurance policies, trusts and benefits (life, casualty, death benefits, military, social security, credit union, 401(k) plan, monies received via wills/trusts, etc.), others?		
Income Tax Records- (federal, state, local)		
Real Estate		
Mortgages or rent information (debts on home, office, apartments, condominiums, businesses), others?		
Location of family treasures, jewelry, other items?		
Certificate of ownership for property, cars, boats, etc. and keys for these items		
Insurance policies (flood, real estate)		
Certificate of ownership, contract for cemetery plot		
Bills: utilities, phone, cable TV, internet services, taxes, etc.		