



## **Checklist for Prearranging a Funeral**

Speak to your family/friends about what your wishes are Burial, cremation, aquamation, funeral service, no funeral service, etc... Prepare your estate and finances

Have a Will or Trust prepared, if you do not already have one; if you have one be sure to update it with any new information.

Write up a Power of Attorney (POA) or speak to a lawyer to help with that

Keep certain things in a safe place together:

Have a list of friends' and family members' names and numbers readily available along with your passwords and usernames for all online subscriptions/email(s)/billing/cell phone(s) etc...

The last three years of taxes, updating them as needed.

Health and Life insurance policies, pension information, investment information, any loan information, credit card information, or 401K information.

Deeds or titles, or property information.

Birth certificates, marriage licenses, divorce paperwork, social security information. Discharge paperwork (DD-214) and V.A. information, if you are a veteran.

Cemetery deeds or property

\*\*\* Put this in a safe place letting those who will be handling your affairs after your death know where they are.\*\*\*

List any doctor's names and phone numbers available in case they need to be contacted. Sometimes it is good to have a list of any prescriptions, just in case. Keep those updated as things change.

Be sure those who will be handling your affairs know your vital statistical information, e.g. parents' names (mother's maiden name), where you were born, your highest level of education, and your social security number. Let them know where to find this information if you choose not to tell them ahead of time.

Have your lawyer's contact information ready.

Talk to your bank(s) and have an authorized signer added to your account(s) if possible

Transfer any property ahead of time, such as cars, boats, or other property to your beneficiary, if possible.

Clean your house, get rid of things you do not need or your family will not want. Hire a sift and sorting crew or estate manager to help with that if needed, they will know what is best to keep and what to discard. It can be very overwhelming and having a neutral party can make the decision-making process easier. [Add Shara's information here]



Pick your funeral home and/or cemetery. Talk to them and start making payments for either or both. Pay attention to fees that may be incurred at the time of need, e.g. flowers, religious institutions, death certificates, obituaries, etc...(the prices of these items change over time and it cannot be avoided; let your family know it will be an additional charge) Ask if you can put money towards these items to help keep the cost down when family is making arrangements.

If you have pets, try to find someone who will be able to take them for you if family does not have the ability to help. There are many rescue centers who would love to help and rehome pets of all kinds.

For dogs: <https://safe-pet-rescue-fl.com/locations/> For reptiles/small animals:

<https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/nonnatives/amnesty-program/> (rehoming takes time and they do not pick up animals until there is a home available)

For farm/exotic animals: <https://www.fallinpinesrescue.org/about.html> For cats and dogs:  
<https://www.thepetcottage.org/>

If you feel comfortable doing so, prepare your obituary. Have everything together that you would like to say. Any groups or memberships you had, any churches you were part of, where you went to school or grew up, are good to add. If you do not wish to have an obituary, let your family know. If you wish for your obituary to be part of an out-of-state paper be sure to let your family know that too.

Planning for when we pass on can be very overwhelming, there is much to do and prepare for. It can be extremely overwhelming for our families at the time of our deaths, especially. There is much emotion involved and even with having things pre planned there is much to be done after a death causing stress and anxiety. By pre planning we help our families to know our wishes, keep costs down, and help them to be guided to what they need to do. Death is very difficult to talk about, but it is worth knowing our families will be cared for and it will be an easier transition for them when we choose to plan ahead.