



your guide to **USING A FUNERAL CELEBRANT**

from the word to the wise series | www.funeralwise.com

What is a Celebrant?



*Don't cry because it's over.
Smile because it happened.*
—Dr. Suess

Funeral Celebrants are professionals who work with families to help design a customized funeral or memorial ceremony that reflects the deceased's personality, culture, values, and wishes.

Celebrants can create both secular and non-secular celebrations and can incorporate both traditional and non-traditional funeral elements. A celebrant can also officiate the service.

WHY WORK WITH A CELEBRANT?

- A funeral is a one-time event. You want it to be a meaningful celebration of life.
- Creating a proper and memorable tribute at a time of loss is not an easy task.
- A Funeral Celebrant has the training, knowledge and skills to help you create a fitting ceremony in the required timeframe and within your budget.

The Ceremony



A good funeral gets the dead where they need to go and the living where they need to be.

—Thomas Lynch



A celebrant will work with you to create a ceremony as unique as the life of the person being honored.

A celebrant will help you:

- Decide where and when to hold the ceremony
- Set the order of the service
- Select the music, readings, and quotes
- Prepare a eulogy or help you write one
- Coordinate with the funeral director
- Officiate the service

Choosing a Celebrant

To have been loved so deeply, even though the person who loved us is gone, will give us some protection forever.

-J. K. Rowling

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



QUALIFICATIONS

There are a number of training and certification programs available for celebrants. Ask about your celebrant's training and about his or her experience.



COST

Be sure to request costs for all services and compare prices. Get a bottom line price before committing. Read the fine print before signing an agreement.



RELIGION

A celebrant can help you express your religious views in a ceremony, if at all. Talk with your celebrant to ensure that the ceremony you get is what you want.



COLLABORATION

A critical aspect of a celebrant's work is upfront time spent with the family to get to know the deceased. Take advantage of this time, be open and sharing.



PROCESS

Each celebrant has a preferred approach to planning a ceremony. Discuss the way your celebrant works to make sure you are comfortable with the process.



PHILOSOPHY

Celebrants bring their own special point of view to the process of planning a celebration. Make sure your celebrant's approach aligns with your own ideas.

Questions & Answers

RELIGION OR NO-RELIGION?

Whether or not to have a religious ceremony is entirely up to you! A celebrant is expert in holding both secular and non-secular services. Celebrants typically specialize in secular ceremonies but will incorporate as much spirituality as you want.

DO I NEED A FUNERAL DIRECTOR?

Celebrants and funeral directors often work together on the funeral arrangements. Funeral directors have the technical training to handle the care and preparation of the deceased. A memorial service (i.e., the casket is not present) can be handled by a celebrant without the assistance of a funeral director.

HOW MUCH DOES A CELEBRANT COST?

Celebrants are usually independent contractors who set their own fees. Costs usually range from \$250-\$1,000, depending on the services he or she provides. Some Celebrants charge a flat fee while others charge by the hours. Since there are no standard prices, it can pay to shop around.

WHERE CAN I FIND A CELEBRANT?

Our online funeral planner has a directory of celebrants. See our [Wise Planning System](#) to learn more. You can also look online or ask a local funeral director for a referral.



Try Our Free Planning Tools



START A QUICK PLAN



[Log-in to an existing plan](#)

THE WISE PLANNING SYSTEM

Whether you are planning ahead or making arrangements for an immediate funeral, our Wise Planning System can help you every step of the way.

STEP 1 – QUICK PLAN

Get started with a basic plan and see an estimate of your expected costs. It's quick, easy and free.

STEP 2 – ESSENTIALS PLAN

This Free Upgrade takes your planning to the next level. Manage your expected costs in detail. Search for and select providers, advisors and products in our online directories.

STEP 3 – COMPLETE PLAN

The ultimate funeral planner. Assign trustees for your plan, design your ceremonies, record vital

[Learn More About Wise Planning](#)