



# 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.



#### **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.



#### 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.



### **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.



#### **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.



### **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.

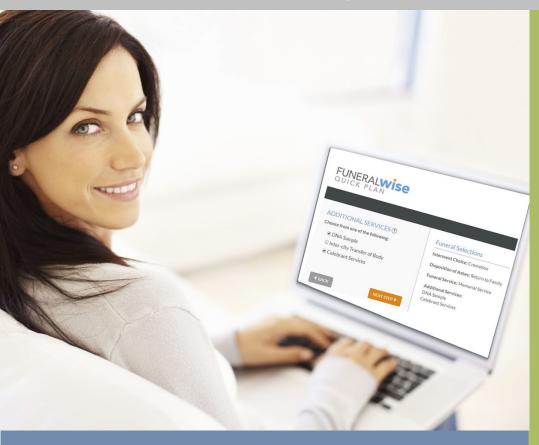
### WHERE CAN I FIND A CELEBRANT?

Our online funeral planner has a directory of celebrants. See our <u>Wise Planning System</u> 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** 

