

# When A Death Occurs

First, when death is close at hand and before a loved one passes away, please call the St. Timothy parish office (813) 968-1077 as soon as possible. Having a priest come, be with you, and offer anointing for your loved one is a priority.

When a death occurs, the order in which things need to be done often depends on where the death occurred. But, one thing should always be remembered: your heightened emotional state upon the death of a loved one. People who are in grief are not always the best equipped to make tough decisions. That's why we suggest that you ask a friend for help - someone who is more able to think clearly, and give you the support you need.

## Those Important Questions

If there is no pre-plan in place, there are several other questions that you may have to have answered in regards to the death of your loved one:

- Do I have to have embalming?
- Do I need to purchase a casket?
- What are my price options?
- What about cemetery arrangements?
- Does the family have to engage the services of a minister?
- What type of service should we have? What are our options?

One of the best ways to make sure that all of your questions and desires are taken care of is to make pre-arrangements. This is as simple as outlining your wishes to having all of the details written down and the financial arrangements prepaid. Some people think that make pre-arrangements is morbid but in reality, it will help your loved ones navigate through a difficult time. Leaving behind your wishes can save them from feeling guilty for not knowing how to honor your memory.

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## What to Expect When You Arrive at the Funeral Home

One of the first things the funeral arranger should do is to provide you with a general price list. He or she will then guide you through the entire arrangement process, explaining how you can create a memorable personal celebration of your loved one's life. This is not a one-way conversation; they should want to hear your ideas and desires, and use them as the foundation for the arrangement process.

This process may include:

- Preparing and filing the official death certificate
- Scheduling the location, date and time of services or events
- Selecting a casket, urn or other items
- Preparing an obituary notice
- Scheduling vehicles
- Selecting pallbearers

You may also sign necessary authorizations or make arrangements to have them signed by the appropriate family members. Also consider bringing any photos, a favorite song, or memorabilia so that you and your funeral arranger can better discuss how you would like your loved one to be remembered. Having these things, and knowing their favorite song or favorite gathering place - even their favorite activity - will help them create a truly fitting memorial service.

A funeral arranger will assist you in planning a loving tribute that captures the spirit of the person whose life you wish to honor. The funeral arranger will discuss personalization with you during your arrangement conference.

## What to bring with you to the Funeral Arrangement

The following checklist will help you remember what information about the decedent and items will be needed when meeting with a funeral arranger.

- Full legal name
- Home address
- Social Security number
- Date of birth
- Place of birth
- Father's name, Mother's maiden name
- Veteran's discharge papers (DD-214)
- Racial/ethnic background
- Highest level of education
- Marital status
- Occupation

As part of a funeral home's services, they will obtain certified copies of the death certificate on your behalf. Although we try to obtain the certified copies prior to the completion of the funeral service, this is not always possible. In order to assist you in ascertaining the number of certified copies needed, below is a list of potential needs for a death certificate:

- Each Life Insurance Company
- Pension, IRA or other retirement benefits
- Each bank where accounts are maintained
- Stocks and Bonds
- Real Property
- Motor Vehicle
- Probate of Will
- Final Tax Return
- Your own files

The loss of a loved one is never easy. Knowing what to expect and how to plan a fitting memorial is an important first step to begin the journey.

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### Helpful Google Websites:

- Scriptures for Catholic funerals...scriptures/readings which are liturgically correct and appropriate for Christian funerals.
- usccb.org...US Conference of Catholic Bishops...another good source of scriptures/readings for Catholic funerals.
- When Death Occurs Checklist...1-2-3, step by step, on what to do when a death occurs.

The booklet enclosed in St. Tim's funeral packet is entitled... ***Through Death to Life***. This is available online. Google **Through Death to Life Joseph M Champlin**; click on PDF Page 1 Page 2 contents. There it is in its entirety.