



St. John's Archdiocese Inc.

Comments on Arranging Funerals

21 August 2020

The following script contains general comments on funeral arrangements. It is meant to serve as an aid to families to help them prepare for their meeting with the funeral director.

One of the first things to determine is who has the **legal authority** to make decisions on what will happen to a deceased person's body. The funeral home may ask for proof of authority before making arrangements.

All the funeral homes provide the full range of **funeral services**. This involves coordinating the church; Clergy; Music; Removing the body and preparing it for the wake and funeral; Hairstyling; Clothing; Flower arrangements; Selection & supply of caskets or urns and burial liners (if applicable); Cremation services; Cemetery fees; Registering the death; Arrangements for committal in the cemetery; Public death notices; Programs for funeral mass; Prayer cards; Transportation of the remains to the church and cemetery; and any other special needs that the family may have.

If the remains are being cremated, it is important to decide if the cremation is to be done before or after the wake and funeral. Ask the funeral director to explain the options and what costs are involved with each option. Also, sometimes couples might select a companion urn where both their ashes can be placed together. Committals of companion urns are delayed until both compartments are filled.

For the liturgy service itself, the Roman Catholic parishes have volunteer bereavement teams that help the family plan the funeral, music, readings, etc. The team will contact the family once they receive the details from the parish office. Families are reminded to use the services of their home parish for the funeral.

With respect to the RC cemeteries in St John's, plots and niches are only assigned when a death occurs. Plots are available in Kilbride and Gate of Heaven cemeteries and niches are available in Holy Sepulchre and Mt Carmel cemeteries. There are tentative plans for a columbarium in Gate of Heaven in 2021. With cremation burials, families also have the option to place urns on top of casket burials of other family members in existing plots.

When arranging a funeral, the funeral home will require the following **information on the deceased**: name; date of birth; age; date of death; birth place; marital status; full name of spouse; father's name and birth place; mother's name and birth place; and the name of the attending physician.

When a death occurs the family should contact the funeral home of their choice. Most funeral homes have a 24 Hour call-in service.



Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of St. John's

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The funeral home will always require the certification of death signed by the attending physician before the body can be released to the funeral home. Occasionally securing this certificate may cause delays for the family in proceeding with the funeral.

Many people plan ahead to prepare for their death. Some people pre-pay the costs and others simply make the plan with intentions to pay at the time of need. It is important to ask the funeral home if the prepaid monies will cover all the expenses at the time of need, or will there be additional costs later if funeral costs have increased.

Some funeral homes will accept payment on installments and others may require full payment at the time the contract is signed. If the person wishes to prepay, the funeral home will require a signed contract and monies will be held 'in trust'.

It is important that the person making the pre-arrangements discuss the pre-arrangements with the person who will have the authority to make decisions at the time of need.

The following is a list of funeral homes operating in the Avalon North region.

Funeral Homes:

Barrett's Funeral Home: Robert Barrett @ 709 579 6007 www.barretts.com

Carnell's Funeral Home: Geoff Carnell @ 709 722 2730 www.carnells.com

Caul's Funeral Home: John Anderson Jr. @ 709 753 6845 www.cauls.ca

Dunphy's Funeral Home: Ron Fitzpatrick @ 709 229 7905 EM; rfitzpatrick@dunphys.ca

Hickey's Funeral Home: Carol Ann Toope @ 709 834 3051

EM: administration@hickeysfuneralhome.ca

Ryan's Funeral: Joe Ryan @ 709 334 2851

St. John's Cemeteries:

Anglican Cemeteries: Tel: 576 6150 EM: angcem@nf.aibn.com

General Protestant Cemeteries: Tel: 739 7152 EM: gpcemeteryboard@nf.aibn.com

Roman Catholic Cemeteries: Tel: 699 6620 or 730 8752 EM: cemetery@rcsj.org

Catholic Burial Records Available on Archdiocese website: www.rcsj.org