



Practical Considerations at The End of Life

Following a death, there are many things that must be done by family members or representatives of the deceased. These can be difficult times for all concerned, and many issues may be more easily dealt with before death occurs. These issues may include decisions about:

- funeral home
- cemetery or mausoleum property
- memorial or funeral service
- monument
- casket or urn choice
- vault selection
- clothing for the viewing of the deceased
- information for the obituary
- music, prayers, and/or speakers for the memorial or funeral service

By contacting the funeral home in advance, useful information and assistance may be obtained. In addition, pre-planning and signing necessary papers prior to the death may qualify families for lower rates for services provided by the funeral home.

After the death, phone calls to various agencies, organizations and personal services may also be necessary. Some agencies may need to know the date of the death. In most cases, the funeral home will provide needed documentation, such as death certificates, for these agencies.

Calls that may need to be made following the death may include:

- to faith system, such as minister, rabbi, spiritual advisor
- insurance agents (such as life, health, disability)
- unions and fraternal organizations
- attorney (if applicable)
- accountant
- executor of the estate
- government offices, including social security and Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
- pensions plans
- Veterans Administration (if applicable)
- bank, investment companies, mortgage companies (if applicable)
- Title on all real estate property may have to be changed. If applicable, application for widowed person exemption as well as homestead and disability exemptions may be completed.

Please feel free to contact your Arbor Hospice team any time for assistance with these issues. We are available to you if you have questions, need to talk, or have other concerns. You are not alone.