

Guidance on: My Funeral Preferences

Leaving notes about how you want your funeral to be conducted helps those who are bereaved and Area Meeting Elders responsible for co-ordinating funerals. Your wishes can be simple or detailed guidance for those who organise your funeral – but consider allowing some flexibility.

Members or Attenders can record their wishes in the form below or use one from Britain Yearly Meeting – <http://www.quaker.org.uk/documents/funeral-wishes07-2018> – or write a simple letter.

It might be difficult to carry out every one of your wishes – so please indicate which details are of great importance and which are simply a preference – leaving final plans to those organising your funeral. Feel free to write ‘don’t know’ or ‘don’t mind’ in reply to questions. If there are details you wish to remain confidential, please say where the information can be found, should it be needed.

If you wish a funeral in the tradition of a simple Quaker Meeting for Worship, please say so; but perhaps indicate how flexible you are if your next of kin suggests additions such as music. You can always add extra comments or requests on a separate piece of paper.

Area Meeting Elders welcome discussion about the choices open to you, including information on how to pre-pay for your funeral. Some useful resources are listed below.

This Funeral Preferences form can be downloaded from www.quakerscotland.org/south-east or requested from the Quaker Meeting House, 0131 225 4825 or e-mail office@equaker.org.uk.

Please make a copy for yourself to keep with your Will and send your **Funeral Preferences** in a sealed envelope to:

The Meeting House Managers, SESAM (Funeral Preferences), Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL.

Powers of Attorney and Advance Directives

It can be very helpful for your next of kin and friends if you record your decisions about what should happen if, through accident or infirmity, you are not able to manage your affairs.

Powers of Attorney are registered with the Office of the Public Guardian (Scotland) – see <https://www.publicguardian-scotland.gov.uk/power-of-attorney/forms-publications> and also <https://compassionindying.org.uk/making-decisions-and-planning-your-care/scotland/>

1. **Continuing Power of Attorney** relates to financial / property affairs and may take immediate effect and continue when you lose capacity; or you can decide you only want it to begin when you become incapable of managing your affairs. See: www.mygov.scot/power-of-attorney/
2. **Welfare Power of Attorney** allows someone you have appointed to make welfare or medical decisions for you. This only starts if you have lost the capacity to make decisions yourself. This can be incorporated into a single document with Continuing Power of Attorney.

See helpful guidance at: <https://compassionindying.org.uk/making-decisions-and-planning-your-care/scotland/welfare-power-attorney/>

3. **Advance Directive** – formerly called Living Wills – set out medical treatments to which you do or do not consent. You could discuss these with a doctor and / or Welfare Power of Attorney.

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Age Scotland also has a helpful factsheet:

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/globalassets/age-scotland/documents/ia---factsheets/legal-and-family/leg-8-planning-for-your-future-healthcare-nov-20.pdf>

Useful references and resources

The City of Edinburgh Council – Bereavement Services

Includes: What to do after a death in Scotland. Registering a death. Mortonhall, Seafield and Warriston Crematoria, cemeteries and woodlands for burials in the area.

Go to www.edinburgh.gov.uk/directory/40/cemeteries_and_crematoria Similar information is available on the websites of the other councils in the SESAM area. Look under 'funerals', 'bereavement services', 'burial grounds' or 'cemeteries'.

The Natural Death Centre

Natural Death Centre is a charitable organisation that acts as a funeral watchdog on behalf of the consumer. It also provides a wide range of resource information on arranging funerals, including woodland burials and do-it-yourself funerals. See: www.naturaldeath.org.uk/ (links to "bookshop", "resources" and lists of "natural burial grounds – three in Scotland including Binning Wood in East Lothian" – both members and non-members of the charity are listed).

Not listed, but also in the SESAM area, is the Hundy Mundy Woodland Burial Ground near Kelso - <http://www.bordersnaturalburials.co.uk/>

Funeral services, crematoria etc. in Edinburgh (and elsewhere)

A list of funeral directors is available from the on-line Yellow Pages and in the paper editions. Although the list is long, it may be incomplete if businesses don't pay to have an entry. See: www.yell.com/ - enter "Funeral Directors" and "Edinburgh" (or as appropriate) into search box.

Paying for funerals

Websites and publications above have some information and news articles on this.

Age Scotland has a leaflet on the Scottish Government assistance for those in receipt of social security benefits at <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/globalassets/age-scotland/documents/ia---factsheets/non-age-scotland/planning-funeral.pdf>.

Phone 0800 12 44 222 or call into a local Age Scotland office.

Wills

Quaker Faith and Practice reminds us of the importance of making a Will: '... Friends should make wills in times of health and should obtain professional advice.' (QF&P 20.65)

List of publications available within the Area Meeting

The catalogues of Central Edinburgh and Kelso LM libraries are now available on line.

See: www.quakerbib.org.uk and click on either Central Edinburgh or Kelso.

Items can be found by clicking on key words such as: Bereavement, Death.

Form 1: My Funeral Preferences

Your full name	
Please give other name(s) you have used (e.g. maiden name)	
Address including postcode	
Telephone number(s)	
Name of your Local Meeting	
Your next of kin	
Address including postcode	
Telephone number(s)	
EITHER: Do you wish local Friends to take responsibility for arranging your funeral?	
OR: Do you wish your family, next of kin or friend(s) to arrange your funeral? If yes, please give contact details here.	
Are your family/friends aware of your wishes in this respect? If yes, please say who.	
Do you wish your funeral to follow the tradition of a Quaker meeting for worship?	
However, if you answer 'yes' to the last question, what are your feelings about your relatives adapting them, for example by requesting some music?	
If happy please name the person you have nominated to make choices for you. (Have you considered discussing this form / your wishes with that person?)	
Do you know which undertaker you would wish to handle arrangements? If 'yes', please give details	
Have you made arrangements, financial or otherwise, with chosen undertaker? If 'yes', please give details.	

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Do you wish to be buried or cremated?	
<p>Where do you want your funeral to take place? Please give details.</p> <p>(a) Crematorium Edinburgh (3), Fife (2), Falkirk (1) & Scottish Borders (1)</p> <p>(b) Burial ground (many churches here)</p> <p>(c) Woodland burial</p> <p>(d) Elsewhere</p> <p>NB. A Meeting for Worship for a funeral can take place in a Meeting House, even if the coffin is not present.</p>	
What kind of coffin would you like? There are many choices: a simple casket of wood, MDF, cardboard, wicker etc.	
EITHER: Where do you want to be buried? OR: Where, how and by whom do you want your ashes to be cared for?	
During the Meeting for Worship: how would you like your coffin to be placed?	Covered / Partly covered / Uncovered
Do you want your coffin to be removed as part of the Meeting for Worship or left in place until after everyone has left?	
<p>Would you like music to be played? Many places of Worship can play tapes or CDs or a friend might play live?</p> <p>If 'yes', what would you like and when should it be played?</p>	
Would you like anything to be read during the Meeting? Please say what.	
Please give name and contact details of a particular person to do the reading.	
Please suggest one or both of the Friends to sit up front? Where possible they should be Elders or former Elders.	
Would you like to have flowers at your funeral?	
If yes, what should be done with them after funeral?	

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If you want a collection for a charity you choose please say which?	
Do you want there to be a gathering (social or otherwise) after the funeral?	
If you wish to donate your body or your organs for medical science have you made arrangements for this to happen? Please say who you contacted about this.	
Would you like your LM to place notices in <u>The Friend</u> , <u>Sesame</u> , named newspapers?	
How do you want these notices worded?	
Who do you wish to notify Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths?	
The Area Meeting will be informed. Are there other people (family, friends) who should be told about your death and the funeral arrangements? Ideally, this will be one or two individuals who can pass on the information.	
If you have any other comments on the arrangements you would like to see, please make them here:	
Signed:	Date:

Ideally please print off this form, sign it and send it in a sealed envelope – clearly marked with your name and “Funeral Preferences” – inside another envelope addressed to:-

The Meeting House Managers, South East Scotland Area Meeting (Funeral Preferences),
 Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL.

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Form 2: Essential information needed to register the death

Information required by the Registrar. Type details in the box and it will expand if needed

Full name	
Occupation	
Date, place and country of birth	
Where is your will / finance documents kept?	
Name, address, telephone & email of financial adviser	
Name, address, telephone and email of solicitor	
Name, address, telephone and email of your doctor	
Name, address, telephone and email of executor(s)	
Name, address, telephone and email of next-of-kin	
If married, widowed or divorced, please give name of husband, wife or civil partner and occupation	
If you have been married more than once, please give details of previous spouses / civil partner	
Date of birth of your wife / husband / partner	
Full name and occupation of father	
Name, maiden surname, and occupation of mother	
If you have you have a pension from public funds please indicate where relevant papers may be found, as these will need to be handed in.	
If <u>not</u> born in Scotland a birth certificate must be shown. Please say where following may be found: a. Birth and marriage certificates b. NHS medical card (if available)	
Signed:	Date: