

# FINDING THE RIGHT

## FUNERAL HOME

### STEP 1

#### DETERMINE YOUR CRITERIA

- What city/town will the funeral be in?
- Do you want to be buried or cremated?
- Do you want the service to have a religious/cultural affiliation?
- Do you want to work with an independent or corporately-owned funeral home?
- Do you want a full service funeral home?
- Do you care how long they've been in business?
- Do you want a traditional funeral service, a memorial service, or a highly personalized celebration of life?

### STEP 2

#### CREATE A TRACKING TABLE

- In the vertical column on the left hand side, write down the criteria that are important to you. In the top, horizontal row, write down the funeral homes in the area that you are considering.

### STEP 3

#### RESEARCH POTENTIAL FUNERAL HOMES

- Search Online: You can learn a lot by browsing a funeral home's website and educational content.
- Call Professional Funeral Associations: Professional associations usually require their members to adhere to a strict code of conduct. Ask the funeral association for a list of active members.
- Ask for Recommendations: Ask family & friends if they know of a funeral home that they are confident recommending.

### STEP 4

#### SCHEDULE AN INITIAL CONSULTATION

- Review the table of information that you completed in Step 2.
- Decide which funeral home(s) is the best fit for you & your family's needs.
- Call the funeral home(s) to schedule an initial consultation to view the facilities to ensure that they are clean and adequately sized.

### STEP 5

#### GATHER NECESSARY INFO, DOCUMENTS & PERSONAL ITEMS

- Before your appointment with the funeral home or homes, ask them what documents they will need from you in order to complete necessary legal paperwork & have them ready to bring with you to your consultation (see article for a list of potential documents)

### STEP 6

#### VISIT THE FUNERAL HOMES

- The purpose of this initial consultation is to discuss your funeral wishes with the funeral director, to have all of your questions answered, and to tour the funeral home's facilities.
- Make a list of questions you want to ask the funeral home (see our article for a list of potential questions)

### STEP 7

#### REVIEW THE CONTRACT BEFORE YOU SIGN

- It's important to review any legally binding document before you sign, including a contract with the funeral home.
- Review the contract line by line with the funeral director & ask for clarification on anything you don't understand.

### STEP 8

#### SIGN THE CONTRACT WITH THE FUNERAL HOME OF YOUR CHOICE

- For the contract to be valid, you & the funeral home must both sign the contract.
- Make sure you get a copy of the contract after it's signed & request a receipt.
- If you buy supplies/services from a cemetery or crematorium, the funeral home will also give you a copy of its by-laws setting out any special rules that you must follow, including any restrictions on the purchase of supplies/services.

