

Directions and Wishes for Funerals

(Form provided by the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Springfield, Illinois)

This form may be used as an outline for your written directions regarding your funeral wishes. The completed document will be kept confidentially on file in the Cathedral office. Be sure to inform the person who will be handling your arrangements that the Cathedral has this information.

Other documents we recommend you complete and keep in your own files:

A Living Will allows you to indicate what kinds of treatments or therapies you would want or not want in the event of a terminal illness and/or the loss of the ability to speak on your own behalf. A well-written living will is an effective guide for family and health care providers to follow in determining your care. It is important to note, however, that you should make your family and physician(s) aware of the existence of the document. Give copies to your family members, ask your doctors to add a copy to your medical records, and if you are hospitalized, take a copy with you if possible.

A Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care is a document in which you appoint someone to make health care decisions for you if you are unable to make them for yourself. The person you appoint should be someone who knows you well and whom you trust. When the need arises, he or she can make decisions as you would make them yourself, if you were able. Give a copy of your Durable Power Of Attorney For Health Care to your physician(s), and a copy to the person you designate to make your health care decisions.

Copies of your Living Will and your Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care may be kept on file at the Cathedral along with this form. Copies of the Living Will or Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care have been included in this packet. You can also obtain the forms by calling the Department of Aging at 785-1566 or 1-866-800-1409.

I. General Information

A. Full Name: _____

B. Current Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

C. Do you have a Will? ___ YES ___ NO (If NO, you are urged to call your lawyer as soon as possible.)

If YES, who will have a copy?

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

D. Disposal of your remains:

1. By burial? _____ By cremation? _____

2. Where? _____

(Note: Information on burial of cremated remains in the Cathedral Columbarium is available in the Cathedral office.)

E. I want to donate my bodily organs. ____ YES ____ NO

(Appropriate arrangements should be made with the agency in question in advance. A copy of the State Law regarding Organ Donation is in the Cathedral Office.)

F. ____ I do not want heroic measures to keep me alive. *(If not, execute a "Living Will".*

Advise your physician and family of your wishes. A copy of your Living Will and/or Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care should be filed in the Cathedral office with this form.)

G. ____ I want an inexpensive funeral.

____ I want a funeral in which cost is not a major concern.

____ I want _____

H. My coffin should be:

____ as inexpensive as possible

____ in the moderate price range

____ more than moderate price range

____ rented (for cremation only)

comments: _____

I. Obituary:

____ My obituary is on file. Where? _____

____ I do not wish a published obituary.

____ The following person will supply information for my obituary: _____

J. I want memorials to be given to the Cathedral or other charitable agencies in lieu of flowers.

Examples: _____

K. General Comments: _____

II. The Liturgy

Note: All liturgical considerations at Cathedral funerals are subject to the direction of the Dean.

A. The following liturgies are options. Please check the one desired:

___ Burial of the Dead, Rite I, pg. 469 BCP

___ Burial of the Dead, Rite II, pg. 491 BCP

B. I want: ___ Burial Office with Eucharist

___ Burial Office without Eucharist

C. I want: ___ the liturgy said

___ the liturgy sung (where appropriate)

D. Should there be a Psalm in the liturgy? ___ YES ___ NO

If so, which? _____ (See BCP pp. 471-479 choices for both Rites)

E. Scripture Lessons (See the selections in the BCP, pp. 470, 475, 480 choices for both Rites)

___ Two lessons ___ Three lessons

Old Testament: _____

Epistle: _____

Gospel: _____

___ Let clergy choose Scriptures

F. Comments: _____

III. Pastoral Matters

A. In case I am grievously ill, please call a priest.

___ I want to be anointed and have the Last Rites of the Church

___ I want Communion

B. Where do you want your funeral service? _____
(Baptized Christians are properly buried from the Church. BCP pg. 468)

C. There will be a homily.

Who should deliver it? _____

D. Pallbearers

The funeral director will take care of this according to your request. List names below:

E. Cathedral Pall

The coffin is to be closed before the service, and it remains closed thereafter. A white Pall is placed over the coffin prior to the service; it symbolizes that we are all equal in the eyes of God. Flowers or flags on the coffin are replaced after the service and the Pall has been removed.

F. Clothing

The Funeral Director will ask for appropriate clothing for the body of the deceased. What are your wishes? _____

G. Music

Sacred music is recommended for Church services. Particular selections should be discussed with the clergy.

I prefer: ___ congregational singing ___ soloist
 ___ choir (if available) ___ organ
 ___ instrumental ___ sung Eucharist

I prefer the following hymns (give names & hymnal numbers, if possible)

H. Flowers

Do you want flowers on the altar? _____ YES _____ NO

I. Time of Day

This should be arranged through the clergy and the funeral director. Late in the morning and early in the afternoon are common. Funeral services are generally not held on Sundays.

J. Committal (at the grave site)

This should be arranged through the clergy and funeral director. Please list your preference below:

When? (Immediately following the service or at a later time?)_____

Who attends? (Public or private?)_____

Comments:_____

K. Gatherings

You are invited and encouraged to use the Cathedral as a place where friends may convey their condolences to your loved ones prior to the service. Space is also available at the Cathedral for gatherings after the liturgy. Arrangements for a simple post-funeral reception should be made ahead of time through the Cathedral Office.

L. Fees

While there is no charge for the ministrations of the Church, there are expenses. If the sexton's services are required, he should be remunerated. The church organist receives the standard fee (it is usually paid by the funeral director and billed to the estate). The clergy are commonly given an honorarium (often paid by the funeral director and billed to the estate) which is then applied to the clergy's Discretionary Fund to help others.

A final note: the burial office is an Easter liturgy. The liturgical color is appropriately white, and the Paschal candle should be lighted as a visible reminder of Jesus' resurrection and our hope of life everlasting in Christ. At the Burial of the Dead those who mourn may express grief and sorrow as they share in the community's expression of faith, hope, and mutual support in Jesus Christ. If you have any additional questions regarding your funeral plans, please speak with the Dean. Be sure that your next of kin and/or estate trustee, as well as yourself, and the Cathedral have signed copies of this document.

Signed:_____

Date:_____