

CIVIL FUNERAL CEREMONIES

CHARLOTTE ROSCOW
CIVIL CEREMONIES



What is a Civil Funeral Ceremony?

Traditionally funeral ceremonies have been conducted by a minister attached to a particular faith or Church – or completely non-religious, conducted by a humanist officiant.

But the funeral you would wish for your loved one may not fall fully into either of these categories. Perhaps neither you, or your loved one, are part of a regular faith group or church, and yet you do not want a completely non-religious ceremony either. Perhaps you would like just one prayer, or your family brings together more than one faith.

Today, especially on the subject of life and death, people are not always entirely sure of what they believe in, and so may wish to remain open to some form of tradition or spirituality.

Therefore a ceremony, written by an independent celebrant may be just what you are looking for.

Where can the ceremony be held?

A Civil Funeral can be held virtually anywhere with the exception of a church or religious building. The most usual places being a crematorium, cemetery, or a woodland burial ground.

Can I choose the music?

Music plays a very big part within a service and this can be chosen with your loved one very much in mind, either through favourite hymns, or with classical and contemporary tunes. The music can be modern and uplifting rather than just traditional and sombre. But, as with everything in a civil funeral ceremony, the choice is yours.

A message from Charlotte on your recent bereavement:

I want to thank you for taking the time to read through this guide at such a difficult time for you and your family. And I hope that I can make this part of the process as comfortable as possible, so that we may give your loved one the send off that they deserve.

I will help you and your family create an individually prepared ceremony that takes into account the specific requirements and emotional needs of your bereaved family. The ceremony is very much based on the values and beliefs of the person who has died rather than the personal faith or beliefs of the person conducting the ceremony.

The ceremonies I create are a celebration of the life of the person who has died, and far from being a sombre or depressing occasion a funeral can be a fitting, but uplifting experience.

A funeral service is very much part of the healing process – and it is comforting to know that you are providing a unique ceremony that your loved one would have wanted.

I work closely with the funeral director and will spend time with you before the ceremony in order to discuss how you would like to say goodbye to your loved one.

By listening to your thoughts and memories of the person you have lost, I am able to prepare a 'life-story', or Eulogy, as the main centrepiece of the service. It may be that family or close friends also wish to participate in the ceremony as well, either by their own personal tributes or perhaps through readings and poems. I always welcome and encourage family or friends who wish to take part, but equally understand if your family would prefer to leave the entire ceremony presentation to the celebrant. It is very much your choice.

Charlotte



How do I contact a celebrant?

Once you have decided that you wish to have a celebrant-written Civil Funeral Ceremony, your funeral director asks Charlotte to contact you directly to arrange a convenient time to meet up, whether this is at your home, or in another suitable location.

What does a celebrant do?

Charlotte will liaise with you at every stage to ensure that the ceremony is as you would wish.

To enable her to create a ceremony that reflects your loved one, and is individual to your requirements, it helps to get to know as much as possible about their life. This information can be discussed at the meeting. Or if that is not possible over the telephone or by email.

Once Charlotte has gathered the information about them she will write a unique ceremony in tribute to your loved one. You will receive a draft copy in advance of the funeral and are free to make any amendments and check the dates and stories submitted by your relatives are accurate, before it gets printed ahead of the ceremony.



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Charlotte has been a celebrant for over ten years, originally working as a Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages in Hertfordshire which gives her an invaluable insight and understanding into the needs of bereaved families, and a desire to help them through what can be a difficult and emotional time in their lives.

As a registered professional celebrant, Charlotte composes and conducts funeral ceremonies that reflect both the wishes of the family and the life of their loved one, religious or secular.

And of course every funeral ceremony that Charlotte writes is unique to the person that it has been written for.





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