



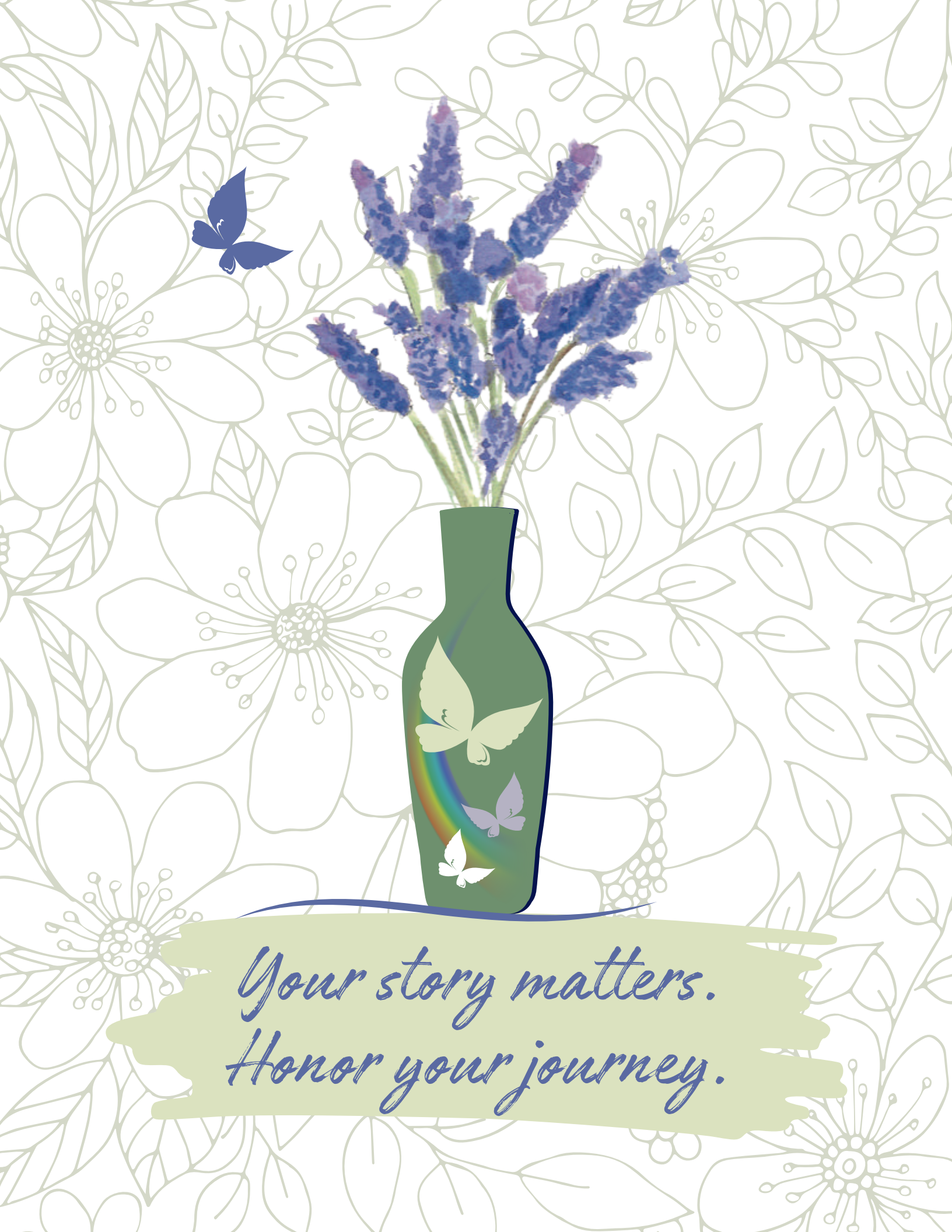
**Exploring Identity-related Deathcare wishes
for LGBTQIA+ and Religious, Secular, and Spiritual Identities**

IADDRsource.org

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*Your story matters.
Honor your journey.*



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Welcome

Every person, of every identity, deserves to be authentically honored in deathcare.

What is deathcare? For the purposes of our journey together in this book, it's those final days or moments leading to death and how our bodies and legacy are cared for after we die. It can also mean grief care and other mental health support after someone has died. Our loved ones – and the deathcare professionals who provide care to us and to our loved ones – can only honor our wishes regarding our identity if those wishes are known.

Mortality is hard to think about. As scary or heavy as it may feel, it's important for *everyone* to consider. This includes documenting wishes, estate planning, financial planning, and planning what will happen when a death occurs. For people like us who may have concerns about how our identity may (or may not be) honored in our deathcare, it is even more urgent.


How your LGBTQIA+ identity and Religious, Secular, or Spiritual Identity (RSSI) inform your deathcare decisions is very personal. This workbook is designed to complement other workbooks, guides, and books by providing identity-specific reflections, worksheets, and practical guidance for navigating identity-related planning and for finding affirming providers.

Hi, i'm Tee Rogers. If you flip to the back, there's a bit more from me about this project. For now, i just want to welcome you and thank you for taking the time to reflect on how identity may inform your deathcare decisions. It's an aspect of the deathcare experience that even those who are diligent in planning ahead often don't consider.

I hope you will find this Identity Affirming Deathcare Directives (IADD) workbook meaningful and useful.

Thank you

for the courage it has taken to pick up this book and begin this unique journey of self-reflection.



If this book finds you at a time of grief or an otherwise difficult time in your life, the IADD team extends our heartfelt condolences and love to you.

Peace to you and your loved ones.



Welcome

A note on alternative & home-based deathcare

Funeral homes traditionally facilitate the legal paperwork and the care and transportation of the decedent; however, in some states you are not required to use a licensed funeral director and there are alternatives. These may include filing for the death certificate and burial and transit permits yourself, transporting the decedent to the burial or the crematory yourself, home burial, natural or green burial, and using direct cremation services.

If interested in alternative options, be sure to research and understand federal, state, and county legal requirements and other governances or policies you may be subject to.

Why this book focuses on LGBTQIA+ and RSSI deathcare

Conflating the experiences of LGBTQIA+ people and RSSIs (Religious, Secular, and Spiritual Identities) in this workbook is intentional. These identity communities and individual journeys of course have their own complexities; however, the continuous process of coming out and living as these identities can include many of the same anxieties and challenges. While we could explore differences and mutual experiences at length, let's just briefly consider some of the intersectionalities:

Fear of coming out ✧ rejection ✧ harassment ✧ dismissiveness or trivializing of identity or experiences ✧ active or passive discrimination ✧ isolation ✧ labeling ✧ stereotyping ✧ microaggressions ✧ religious trauma ✧ othering ✧ loss of professional opportunity (economic impact) ✧ internalized stigma ✧ identity washing ✧ identity negation ✧ guilt ✧ shame ✧ estrangement from loved ones ✧ loss of community or support systems ✧ violence ✧ and more. *And many people identify across these identity communities, experiencing compounded stressors of both. For example, being a gay Atheist.*

Such challenges can be especially prevalent in certain faith-normalized environments—like the deathcare industry—where sociocultural majority faiths are a foundation for greater potential of dogma-informed bias from individuals and companies (in policy or in practice) regarding LGBTQIA+ people and “other” RSSIs.

The time When a loved one has died or is dying, or when we are facing our own terminal diagnosis, seems the least ideal circumstance for confronting identity-related pressure that may surface in the deathcare journey.

Let's pause together, today, hopefully far in advance of needing them, and work through deathcare decisions and options related to your identity. So when the time comes, you have a plan. You have armor.





How to use this book

Filling out this workbook documents your wishes related to your identity and gives your loved ones insight into your intentions. Use it as a personal reflection or as a formal documentation of your wishes. Fill out as much or as little as is meaningful for you, and share with others only as you feel comfortable doing so.

Update this book and all of your planning documents, guides, and contracts over time, as wishes and circumstances may change. You should do a review at least every five years.

Make sure your loved ones know where to find this and other documents like your will and estate plan, funeral home or other planning guide, Five Wishes documents, funeral and cemetery contracts, and other documents, workbooks, and guides that you may have completed.

This workbook is very specific to LGBTQIA+ identities and RSSI (Religious, Secular, and Spiritual Identities) and is designed to complement (not replace) other planning workbooks and tools where identity is not a focus. This book may contain very personal information. Ensure your privacy by protecting this document as you would any sensitive information.

States vary in requirements for documents needed, signatures, witnesses, and notarization. Check the laws in your state to make sure you are creating a valid, usable tool for your loved ones if that aspect of this workbook is important to you.



LEGAL DISCLAIMER

This workbook is for informational and educational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. Readers should contact their attorney or obtain legal advice for any specific legal questions regarding the content of this workbook.

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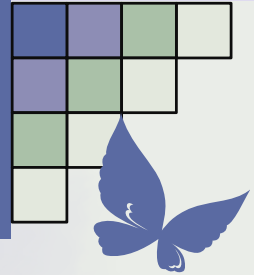
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IADD for Clinicians and Professionals

The IADD focuses on how diverse identities experience their care as they near death and after a death has occurred. It is a tool for individuals, but also for health, mental health, and death care professionals in their service to diverse clients.



Navigating end of life discussions is an ever challenging and important aspect of healthcare. Interventions and decisions made on behalf of the ill or soon to be deceased are often not in accordance with individual beliefs.

In discussing end of life conversations with fellow healthcare workers and analyzing the IADD for healthcare worker dissemination, it's evident that the introduction of these topics as part of regular patient care is so important. This goes above an annual choice of proxy or living will but can and should include and honor the philosophies and identities one represents in life to continue through death.

Encouraging patients to engage in deathcare wish conversations aids in honoring an individual's choices in health and illness and alleviates caretaker overload at the time of passing which leaves room for healthy grieving, remembering, and honoring one's time and contributions in life.

It is my sincere hope that the IADD can be widely known in healthcare circles as a powerful tool in providing patients with resources for life and death planning while fostering a culturally competent practice environment through a growing knowledge of diverse LGBTQIA+ and Religious Spiritual and Secular Identities (RSSIs).

Rebeka Manara De Pontes BSN RN



Rebeka M. De Pontes' graduate research project for her Doctor in Nursing Practice (DNP) in 2024 examined the policy and clinical uses of the IADD in Healthcare. Graduation, August 2024.



A flyer for the IADD can be printed from IADDResource.org, or contact the IADD team for flyers or rack cards that can be shared with your patients, clients, or staff.

The IADD workbook is available at NO COST to the public.



Finding Affirming Providers

Affirming vs. Educated

A professional or company may say they welcome everyone, but being identity-affirming and identity-educated both require *effort*.



An **Affirming Provider** invites you to comfortably be your authentic self. We might call these Safe Spaces, or we might just feel respected because of décor, language, or other cues we observe. It may be a lack of something such as religious texts or iconography. An affirming provider *actively* creates a welcoming space and asks questions to help them understand and honor your needs.

An **Identity-Educated Provider** is familiar with your identity and the options that are available to you. They can proactively make recommendations that empower you and your loved ones and will also understand that how *your* identity informs *your* deathcare decisions is very personal.

Note that a company and its employees may not be at the same level. Individuals may independently cultivate elevated competencies not reflected company-wide. However, a company that prioritizes inclusion for LGBTQIA+ people and diverse RSSIs will provide expectations and training to support all of their employees in their service to these communities.

Affirming and educated are not the same. Someone may be open and affirming without being identity-educated; they could leave out something you need to know or give unintentionally misguided advice.

Examples:

- A professional may be welcoming to transgender people, but not understand what deadnaming is nor be aware of deathcare concerns like being misgendered in clothing, verbally at the service, or in permanent memorialization.
- A company may be welcoming to all religious, secular, and spiritual identities, but may not provide education to employees about traditions and options available to accommodate diverse RSSI deathcare practices—even if those recommendations may not financially benefit the company.

A specific example from my work in deathcare was someone who was inconsolably sobbing while telling the story of how, many years ago, they'd lost their father. Years after, they had learned that embalming was not acceptable in his faith, which was very important to him. Having not been given the option to waive embalming, it felt to them as if they had unforgivably dishonored dad. They felt both they and their deathcare professional had failed their family.

Another: I did an aftercare visit (bringing grief resources) to someone who had lost their spouse. They shared that their funeral director had recommended a support group, but the moderator didn't feel a same-sex widow would be a good fit for their religious group. *Rejection layered on grief*. Still, the widow had returned to the funeral director asking for affirming resources but was told that there were none. *Which was not the case*.



Finding Affirming Providers

Finding the right professionals

Providers may tell you they serve everyone or will “take anyone’s money.” That doesn’t make them the best fit for YOU and can even feel unethical and disingenuous. For example, a company may say they are welcoming, but still signal preference for some identities over others, like displaying Christian iconography.

If they really want your business, they will demonstrate that commitment through cultural competence certifications (such as SAGECare certified providers), being active and engaged in relevant community memberships, hiring and cultivating dedicated identity-educated staff, and making competency training mandatory for all employees.

Even if a business is welcoming, it’s often the individual professional in front of you who makes the most impact and who can serve as an advocate for you with other professionals in that company or industry.

- Be open about who you are when you initially call the company or person. Do you feel comfortable speaking with that person? If not, ask for someone else or call another provider.
- Ask how many people you are going to have to work with (funeral director, cemetery professional, etc.) and whether an affirming person can walk with you through the whole process so that you don’t have to be “handed off” and re-traumatized with coming out, explanations, and vetting people.
- Use a personal advocate, who may be a friend or other loved one, or maybe someone from your identity community, who can be there with you. Or call the IADD team—our numbers are in this book and on our website. We’ll be glad to assist in any way we reasonably can.

Screen companies and professionals before engaging with them. In addition to education and certifications for competence in their field, look at reviews and content they and their company promote and share, such as on **websites, blogs, LinkedIn, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and other media**. How are *you* represented?

A note on Faith Bias vs. Faith-Based

Many providers and professionals in compassion industries are faith-biased, and that can cause concern, stress, and anxiety for those with religious trauma or whose identity is sometimes judged and othered because of dogma or religious convictions. There are many faith-based providers and religious people who are not faith-biased, meaning their faith will not be visible to you, be part of your work together, or be forced on you in any way. It’s YOU who needs to feel comfortable with your care. If you have a concern, you can ask the person directly, request a different professional to work with, or do business with a different company.

You deserve care and professional presence that is supportive, identity-affirming, and identity-educated.



Declaration of Identities

In this section, you will document your identities that are important in your life so that they can be honored by those who are caring for you as you near death and after your death.



It is important to me that my loved ones and friends, hospital staff, hospice care team, Deathcare Surrogate(s), funeral home and cemetery professionals, and others involved in my deathcare, both nearing and after death, know and respect my identity.

I expect that deathcare professionals serving me and my loved ones will be affirming and welcoming to myself and my loved ones and will be, or do their best to become, knowledgeable and accommodating regarding my identity needs and preferences.



Legal name and gender



Your legal name and gender (may or not be the same as at birth) will need to be on some documents, such as death certificates. However, obituaries, publications, eulogies, headstones, etc. can have your preferred name and pronouns in most cases. Your preferred name and pronouns can be used by deathcare professionals to refer to you when they are speaking with you and with your loved ones.

My Full Legal Name: _____ Gender: _____

My Preferred Name: _____ Gender: _____

It is OK to use both / either of my legal name and my preferred name

OR

My legal name should never be shared unless legally required

Please list any specific uses or notes regarding use of your name and gender



Declaration of Identities

LGBTQIA+ Identity



Please reflect on your gender and sexual identity. In later sections of this workbook, we'll explore specific requests, such as clothing for services and burial.

LGBTQIA Identity: _____

Gender Identity _____ Pronouns: _____

OUT SCALE:



OUT: Everyone
Knows

Only Inner
Circle knows

PRIVATE:
No one Knows

How would you define or describe this identity to others?

Other important related information:



Declaration of Identities

RSSI (Religious, Secular, or Spiritual Identity)

Please reflect on the terms you would use to describe your religious, secular, or spiritual identity and what it means to you. In later sections of this workbook, we'll explore specific requests, such as deathcare rituals or requirements and how your RSSI might be honored in your deathcare.

RSSI: _____

Examples: *Atheist, Ba'hai, Baptist, Coptic Orthodox, Christian, Cultural Catholic, Deist, Freethinker, Hindu, Humanist, Humanistic Jew, Ignostic, Mormon, Muslim, No Religion, None, Protestant, Satanist, Secular, Sikh, Skeptic, Spiritual Atheist, Wiccan, etc.*

OUT SCALE:



OUT: Everyone
Knows

Only Inner
Circle knows

PRIVATE:
No one Knows

How would you define or describe this identity to others?

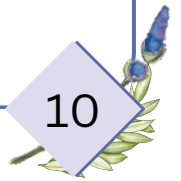
I believe that when I die:



Declaration of Identities

What have my LGBTQIA+ and RSSI Identities meant in my life? What has my identity journey been like? How does my identity inform my deathcare decisions? How “fluid” or “set” is my “Out Scale,” and how does that fluidity inform decisions?

A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a blue border, intended for the user to write their response to the questions above.





Religion, As Death Nears

Many have been traumatized and even said their loved one’s death was “ruined” by well-meaning religious “support.” Here, you can make your wishes known about how you would like support from your RSSI community in hospice and hospital care as you near the time of death.

Hospital, Hospice, and other professionals caring for and communicating with me:

- I am open to any religious or spiritual language or prayers
- Use only religious language that aligns with my RSSI perspective
- Refrain from religious language in my presence

Hospital, Hospice, and other professionals caring for and communicating with my loved ones:

- My loved ones are open to any religious or spiritual language or prayers
- Use only religious language that aligns with my RSSI perspective
- Refrain from religious language in my loved ones’ presence

I am open to being visited by:

- Leader or Clergy from (list perspective): _____
- Non-Denominational Clergy or Chaplain
- Non-Denominational Clergy or Chaplain who will remain SECULAR (no religious language) while interacting with me
- Humanist Clergy: Humanist Chaplain, Humanist Celebrant, or Humanist community or congregational leader

If I am in a facility that has a chaplain or other clergy on staff or on call:

- I am open to them visiting (until I ask them not to return)
- I am open to them visiting ONLY IF they are knowledgeable and affirming of my RSSI
- I am open to them visiting ONLY IF they are LGBTQIA+ affirming and educated
- I am open to them visiting ONLY IF they have formal secular Humanist training
- I **DECLINE** the facility’s chaplain or other clergy on staff or on call to visit me

Other important related information:

Some facilities may not be familiar with Humanist/Secular clergy. Secular clergy can be located by contacting a local Humanist organization. You can find local groups, resources, and Humanist professionals through The American Humanist Association, Freedom from Religion Foundation, Recovering from Religion, Secular Therapy Project, Center for Inquiry, and others.



Cremation vs. Traditional Burial

The choice between cremation and traditional disposition and decision about final resting place are often guided by culture, family tradition, RSI, personal ethical or environmental convictions, emotions, and more. **Availability, permit requirements, legality, and options may vary by state and location, especially as relates to home deathcare.**

Cremation: Remains as Ashes

Basic needs: transportation, embalming or refrigeration, crematory (combustion or alternative), urn, final resting place (less time sensitive).

Options for services:

- Viewing or Visitation before cremation
- Service with casket before cremation
- Service with or without urn after cremation
- Service or presence at the crematory
- Committal, graveside, or scattering service
- Repass or Funeral Reception
- Simple (or Direct) Cremation (no service)

FINAL RESTING PLACE OPTIONS

Note: if appropriate for you, ashes can be split for multiple options or locations.

Cemetery -

- Above ground: private or community columbaria, private estates, burial in traditional in-ground or mausoleum spaces, glass-front niches, cremation benches or pedestals, cremation monuments or markers, etc.

Veterans options - national or private cemeteries

Ocean Burial - Reef options (like Neptune Memorial Reef[™]), ocean burial urns, etc.

Cremation Memorial Space Flights

Personal - Scattering, tree planting, home burial, etc.

Traditional Burial: Remains as body

Basic needs: transportation, embalming or refrigeration (or immediate burial), casket or other transportation vessel, final resting place (time sensitive).

Options for services:

- Viewing or Visitation
- Service with or without casket present
- Committal or graveside service
- Repass or funeral reception
- Immediate Burial (no service)

FINAL RESTING PLACE OPTIONS

Above Ground - Private or custom mausoleum or community mausoleum

In-Ground - single spaces or companion or family legacy estates

Veterans options - national or private cemeteries.

Alternatives - Green or Natural Burial, home burial, composting

I choose: Cremation *OR* Traditional Burial



Care & Presentation of my Body

Share your preferences for how your body should be dressed and displayed, including rituals required to honor your RSSI (such as the Tahara ceremony to be performed by your local chevra kadisha). You may choose your final attire or dressing, *even if you are to be in a closed casket or cremated without services.*

In my casket or for my cremation, my final outfit, attire, accessories, clothing:

Any specific requests regarding hair, makeup, and other cosmetics:

Preferences regarding blessings or rituals, or any other religious care, of my body after death:



Obituary & Eulogy

There are two reasons to provide notes or a draft for your obituary and eulogy. First, families often say that one of the hardest tasks is writing these after someone has just died. So providing a draft is always a gift. Second, *if you don't tell your story, someone else will*. Will the person tasked with writing yours honor your journey and identity as you would want – include the important things, and leave out what you want kept private?

OBITUARY VS. EULOGY

The obituary is the published announcement of a death and sometimes also the story of a life, celebrating and highlighting what was most important. Some still publish these in printed newspapers; however, many are online with virtual guestbooks for family and friends to add comments, memories, and photos. An obituary may also be kept private, only printed for services or kept in family records.

- The family writes the obituary; however, a Celebrant or Eulogist may be hired to assist. Note that when providing an obituary to a funeral home or other provider it may be published as you submit it to them (not edited or proofread before posting). If needed, ask if they provide editing services.

The eulogy may simply be the obituary, or it can be longer and more detailed and personal, including stories and remembrances of the person's life. It can be part of a service, memorial, celebration of life, graveside, scattering, or other remembrance ceremony. It can be read as part of a traditional ceremony or can be crafted throughout an entire custom ceremony (professional Humanist Celebrants and Funeral Celebrants can compose and create such custom eulogies and ceremonies).

- The family may write the eulogy or hire a Celebrant or Eulogist to compose one. A family member or friend may deliver the eulogy during the ceremony, or they may have the Eulogist or Celebrant deliver it on their behalf.

BASIC OBITUARY TEMPLATE



Preferred Name: _____
Date of birth: _____ - **Date of Death:** _____
Arrangements in the care of: _____

(Name), (age), of (place of residence), passed away (date).

(Name) was born in (place) on (date). (pref. pron) graduated from (school) and served as a (rank) in the (branch of service). (Pref. pron) served (#) years.

(Pref. pron) was married to (spouse) on (date of marriage).

(Pref. pron) worked in (industry / profession) for (company/ies). (pref. pron) was a member of (business / civic organizations) and had a passion for (hobbies / interests).

(Name) was preceded in death by (in order: spouse, children, parents, siblings). (pref. pron) is survived by (same order).

Funeral ceremony will be held at (time, date) at (place of service).



This is a sample suggestion only. There's no required format. You can be creative



Ideas for Personalizing Obituaries & Eulogies

Decedent information. Name, preferred name, nick-names and “go-by’s,” pronouns. Places of death and birth. Origins (heritage). Where did they call “home”? Include cause of death? (For example, “after a heroic battle with cancer...” to tie into requests for donations to a cancer research fund.)

Family. Parents' names and where they're from. Living family members and those who are deceased. marriage(s): spouse(s), children. Love story? How did they meet? When married? Why were they perfect for one another? What about pets?

Military Service. Branch, rank, honors, awards, memberships, important deployments, roles, accomplishments. Hero story.

Past. Education (school(s), degree(s), honors, research, etc.). Awards. Accomplishments. Hobbies and pastimes. Sports. Activities. Involvements. Activism. Etc.

Identity. RSSI, LGBTQIA+, or other identity, and what it meant in their life.

Profession or Occupation. Job title, career, years invested, stories, accomplishments, other jobs held in life. Why did they choose this occupation and why was it important to them?

The “other” job. Did they have a hobby or involvement that was like a 2nd professional commitment, like a volunteer role, community activism, political involvement, a cause they championed, etc.? Why was it important to them to invest their time in those areas? What difference did they make?

Community. Did they support or were they involved in any charities? Congregational involvement in any religious, secular, or spiritual organizations? What about political, fraternal, or other affiliations?

Clubs and Organizations. What other memberships and involvements were meaningful in their life?

Quirks & Character. What made your loved one unique? What did people always notice about them?

The wake we leave behind us. What would they feel is their greatest legacy? What were they most proud of? Important accomplishments, the difference they made. What message would they want their life to convey to others? What would they want others to have learned from them? What are some differences they made that they didn't realize the impact of?

Quote. What is something they always said, or something they would want their loved ones to know? Did they have a personal mission statement, dearly held values, or other internal guideposts? Was there a word they always used or some special little thing they always did that impacted others?

Three words that sum up their life. | **Guiding or comforting words.** Their favorite quote or short poem.

Service information. In the obituary, the funeral home entrusted with the arrangements is usually listed if applicable. If the services are open to the public, that information may be included: address to send flowers and date, time, and location the flowers are needed (the first service or viewing if there are several ceremonies), phone number, and the date, time, and location of services and viewings.

Support: Wording for charitable donations (e.g., in honor of Fred's dedicated volunteer service with the Downtown Foodbank, please make donations in lieu of flowers to (website). Alternatively, some families set up a memorial fund and include the link and the purpose of the fund.

Gratitude. Include thanks to people, groups, or institutions who provided support, inspiration, or other meaningful impact to the family or to the decedent.



Obituary & Eulogy Worksheet

Notes, instructions, drafts. For example, what about my identity do I want or not want included? Is there a particular place I'd want my obituary published?

A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners and a thin blue border, intended for writing notes or drafts.



Remembrance Services

Remembrance Services have many names, and often more than one are combined or held in succession. These are where family and friends gather to comfort one another, remember and honor their loved one, and share stories and memories. Remembrance services are shared, healing experiences that honor the decedent and those present—which can be a delicate and difficult balance. Celebrants and other remembrance service professionals can assist with inclusion-focused decisions regarding services with diverse attendance. Such services can have religious elements; however, they can also be fully secular or incorporate elements from multiple religious traditions.

Types of Services

Whatever you call a remembrance service, The important thing is that the service is meaningful for loved ones.



Viewing or Visitation (or calling hours, visiting hours) - whether choosing remains to be as body or as ashes, many set aside time for just family and closest friends to come together. This is most often with the body present (casket either open or closed) before the service or before a cremation. And yes, they can be with just a photo or an urn present. It's the closeness and private time that is the focus here, although there may be expectations of body presence in some traditions.

Whether the casket is open or closed may be dependent on circumstances. Your Deathcare Surrogate can help to guide that decision.

Funeral - often the generic term for an end-of-life or remembrance service, however, it may also be used to specifically mean a service with a casket present. Some may have a funeral service at a funeral home *and* a funeral mass or service at a church or other location.

Funeral Church Service - May be a funeral mass or other service by itself or in addition to a viewing or other service held somewhere else.

Memorial Service - also can be a generic term; however, it may be used to mean a service without a casket present, such as a service after a cremation or a church service held after a graveside service.

Celebration of Life - whether with a casket, an urn, or a photo, this type of service is just as it sounds - a focus on honoring and celebrating the life of a loved one.

Graveside or Committal - a service for the final goodbye where loved ones gather just before or during the lowering of the casket, placement into a mausoleum, or placement of the urn. This usually takes place at a cemetery; however, a similar ceremony may be held in presence at the crematory or at a scattering, tree planting, or other final placement of cremated remains.

Repass or Funeral Reception - gathering around food is common—food brings us together and comforts us. This may be held on the day of the service or after the graveside, or even weeks later. It may be at the funeral home, an outdoor reception at the graveside, at a restaurant, at someone's home, etc. It may be professionally catered or community pot-luck style. What does gathering around food mean to you?

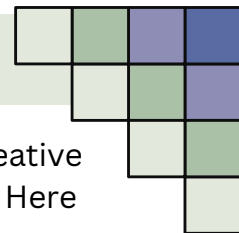
Living Funeral - Some choose to hold a service prior to death, allowing them to be present and part of the service with their loved ones.





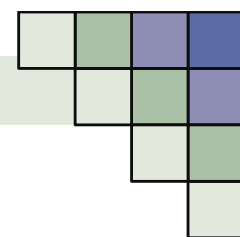
Remembrance Services

Unique Service Elements



You deserve a remembrance service that reflects YOU. There are so many creative ways to honor loved ones lost and to support and comfort those left behind. Here are a few ideas. What are yours? What honors YOUR identity and legacy?

- Incorporate a service project, like a food, blood, or supply drive, or positive postcard campaign for a charity the decedent loved. Invite someone from that charity to say a few words about the decedent’s impact.
- Have a therapy dog, bunny, or other animal to greet guests at the service.
- Have everyone write one word that describes the loved one as they enter, then do a reading of the words during the service.
- Giveaways or keepsakes for everyone to take with them. For example, hire a local poet to be present, creating short poems on memory cards guests can take with them.
- Invite vendors, like the local DonateLife representatives hosting a table at a service for someone who was an organ donor.
- Have a meaningful or unique guest speaker, such as a drag queen to deliver the eulogy or the decedent’s favorite cover band to play at the funeral reception.
- Do a memorial bike ride, motorcycle ride, run-walk-crawl, kayak trip, or other group activity in honor of the person who died.
- Re-invent some wedding traditions, like a journey table or everyone putting a note into a “time capsule” for the widow to read on the first anniversary of the loss, or on the next holiday. What about a reverse ring warming? (passing around the decedents’ wedding ring among loved ones and then presenting it back to the surviving spouse).
- What about other vendors? E.g., a jazz band or instrument soloist, butterfly release, photo booth area or legacy photographer, livestreaming services, etc.



Service Location

Services can occur almost anywhere. Many choose a funeral home, as the staff there is expected to be experienced in serving grieving loved ones and hosting such ceremonies, but there are also professional Funeral and Humanist Celebrants, and other event professionals with remembrance service experience, who can be hired to compose, plan, and facilitate a service at almost any location.

What are your thoughts on where services for you may be held?

Viewing/Visitation: _____

Service/Ceremony: _____

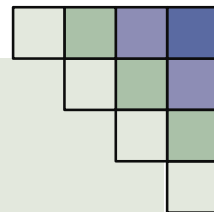
Graveside/Committal/scattering: _____

Repass/Funeral Reception: _____

Other: _____



Remembrance Services



Mark the items you may want included in your service. On the “Service Notes” page, reflect on what these mean to you related to your identity, and give some specific examples.

In a remembrance service, just like in weddings, there is no required or set order or specific elements that must be included. Many clergy and Celebrants have a “script” that they use; however, any officiant can add personal elements. Further, certified Humanist or Funeral Celebrants are almost always educated, affirming providers and can fully customize and personalize any service to honor your identity and to comfort diverse family and friends.

YOUR PRESENCE

- I would be comfortable with a **viewing or visitation** with:
 - Open Casket
 - Closed Casket
 - Urn
 - Photo
- I would be comfortable with a **service** with:
 - Open Casket
 - Closed Casket
 - Urn
 - Photo

Remembrance Service Building Blocks

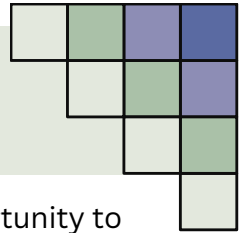


- Welcome, Opening remarks
- Invocation: ___ religious ___ Humanist (secular)
Note it is okay to have both. For example, having a Humanist Invocation and also inviting a religious clergy member to say a prayer, or having a Humanist invocation at a religious service.
- One or more readings may be incorporated throughout the ceremony. They may be from books or poetry, or something the decedent themselves wrote. There may be one or several readings throughout the ceremony, and they may be delivered by the Celebrant or by a family member or friend.
- Reading of the Eulogy
- Music, usually before and after the service; however, it can be incorporated one or more times during the service as a clip from a favorite song or a performance by a loved one (singer, guitar solo, etc.). You can choose any music you’d like.
- Guests sharing memories or tributes. Speakers may be pre-selected and introduced, or more open-mike style. If open style, the celebrant may assist in passing the microphone, encouraging and supporting speakers, and keeping comments within a time frame.
- Closing words of inspiration, gratitude, and support





Remembrance Services



Religion or Other Proselytization at my services

For some religious, secular, or spiritual identities, funeral services may be an opportunity to share perspective messages. For some, evangelical perspective funerals are a tradition. Some view this as “saving” people during this difficult time; however, for someone like an Atheist, it may mean sharing the message of positive ethics and the value of knowing we have one life to live. It can be a meaningful and final expression of the importance of that person’s beliefs and inner life, but may also be off-putting to attendees with diverse perspectives. How should your RSSI be represented during or incorporated into your service?

SCALE OF PERSPECTIVE AT MY SERVICES:



I want my service to affirm and promote my declared RSSI

I have no preference for this

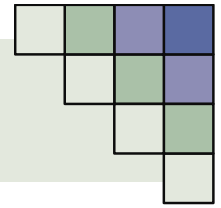
I do not want any RSSI promoted or referenced at my service.

Are there specific RSSI décor items for my journey table or to decorate the room, such as religious or Humanist symbols or icons? Should there be something specifically not included, like refraining from use of flowers or photos, etc.?

Other thoughts or comments regarding the presence, use, or inclusion of RSSI perspective at my service(s):



Remembrance Services



LGBTQIA+ Service Options

How your identity is reflected at your service may be very personal to you; it may also be meaningful to your identity community. It can be as private to you and your immediate circle as you'd like, and it can be as "loud" as you'd like. Keep in mind that some funeral homes and other service venues may not be open to affirming services; this is something you can ask as you're making arrangements to ensure that your wishes can be honored.

RAINBOW SERVICE SCALE:



I want my service to affirm and reflect my LGBTQIA+ Identity

I have no preference for this

I do not want this identity promoted or referenced at my service.

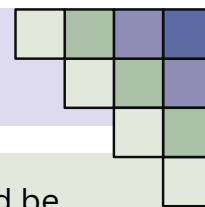
Are there specific photos or mementos for a journey table or to decorate the room? Certain colors, flags, or other décor?

Other thoughts or comments regarding the representation of my LGBTQIA+ identity at my service(s):



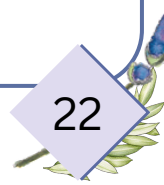
Remembrance Services

Your Service Notes



Notes, instructions, and drafts—with a focus on how your identity should be represented and honored in your service. Also, glance back to the “types of services” and “unique service options.” Is there anything you particularly would want or not want? Why are or aren’t those meaningful to you?

A large, empty rectangular area with rounded corners and a thin blue border, intended for writing service notes.



Veteran Considerations

Thank you for your service.

People of all LGBTQIA+ and RSSI identities have served in the military. Veterans of every identity deserve honor for their service.



In general, eligible veterans and their spouse may qualify for free burial (traditional or cremation) space at a national cemetery, to include all cemetery requirements (space, vault, fees, memorialization, and a graveside service). Veterans may also qualify for military honors at their funeral, flag and presentation of colors, free marker for a private cemetery, presidential certificate commemorating service, and more.

To determine eligibility, you can fill out VA form 40-10007, Application for Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a VA National Cemetery.

Ask your VA Cemetery about accommodations for your needs. For example, some may not be able to provide graves positioned perpendicular to Mecca, accommodate secular remembrance services, allow accompaniment of the body, provide an area for bottomless vaults, etc.

The VA offers a range of emblems for VA Cemetery markers representing many Religious, Secular, and Spiritual Identities. You can find their current list by searching VA Emblems of Belief.

Did you know ... there are agencies like the Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers and the Modern Military Association (advocacy for LGBT service members) to assist diverse service members.

- A copy of my DD214 or equivalent honorable discharge documentation is with my final arrangements documents and has been filed with the funeral home or other person or entity who will need it to coordinate military benefits with the VA.

My final placement preference is:

- National Cemetery: _____

Note that a space cannot be pre-arranged and is not guaranteed until time of need. You can state a preferred national cemetery; select a second choice in case there are no spaces available in your first choice at the time of your death.

- Private Cemetery: _____

- Other: _____

Other notes regarding my identity and military service:



Identity & Planning Ahead

Planning ahead for your funeral, cremation, and cemetery needs has many benefits—and those benefits are even greater when you're someone who may live with the fear of how their identity may be received or responded to. Here are some tips for final arrangements planning that will help you and your loved ones navigate and mitigate the challenges of coming out and finding affirming providers in a time of grief and loss.

- If you're making funded (pre-paid) arrangements with a funeral home or cemetery, ask how you can document your identity-related wishes with your planning and ask if they can they honor those wishes.
- Ask your deathcare professional(s) about their experience with your identity and some of the rituals and practices they've seen honored in their company.
- Ask your deathcare professional about cultural competencies: the training their company provided or their experience regarding your identities.
- The deathcare providers and professionals you're working with—how do they support your identity communities? Are they affinity chamber or organization members? For example, membership in a local Pride Chamber of Commerce or sponsorship of local affinity events. Do they donate to or participate in local relevant events, festivals, and charitable causes?
- For service members, is your identity honored by the VA? For example, an Jewish person can choose a Star of David symbol for their VA cemetery marker. Do they have an emblem for your RSSI?
- If choosing a private cemetery, ask for a tour and to be shown monuments or dedicated areas that honor your identity. How are others of your identity honored at that cemetery?
- Can you pre-purchase and pre-design a headstone, marker, or other custom monument that incorporates your identity? Ask to see past examples.
- How can your identity wishes be honored in relation to organ, tissue, and brain donation, or anatomical donation? For example, can you have a religious service or ritual before the body is taken for donation to science?
- What are the natural and green burial options in your area? What can be planned in advance (plot reservations, transportation, natural casket)? If you're choosing this, for example, as a Wiccan: what are your options for services honoring the transition to the Summerlands (including moonlight services) at this location? What similar services have they done in the past?
- What is the process for burial in other states or countries? How can your wishes related to, for example, embalming vs. natural burial be honored when such transportation will be part of the journey?



These are identity-specific considerations, and there are many more things to think about beyond this.

An affirming, educated funeral professional can be a trusted advisor to assist with finding and planning meaningful options customized for YOU.



Identity & Planning Ahead

Concierge Services with Funeral Companies

If you choose to work with a pre-planning professional for funeral, cremation, and cemetery planning, they should provide expert planning services, including proactive, compassionate guidance regarding identity and deathcare. *You don't know what you don't know.*

A couple came in to preplan their cremation. Their adult children attended the consultation. As they looked at urns, the “kids” said they wanted small keepsake urns so that some of the ashes could be kept with each of them. The couple gave instructions to add the urns requested.

Preplanner: How everyone's religious, secular, or spiritual identity informs their own deathcare decisions is very personal, and this is a safe, private space to discuss those decisions. At the beginning of our meeting, you mentioned you're Catholic, and I just wanted to share that many Catholics don't “split” ashes because of church guidance not to do so.

The couple broke out their phones and started googling—and thanked their deathcare professional for giving them the information and letting them make the decision. They did NOT want to split their ashes. The children were grateful also, because they wanted to honor their parents' religious tradition.

If meeting with a planning professional, share with them...

- LGBTQIA+ or religious, cultural, or other identity that needs to be considered, both for yourself and those you love. What honoring identity in deathcare means to you.
- Any concerns you have about how your identity might be honored at the time of your death.
- Your comfort level regarding the discussion of deathcare. How has death impacted your life?
- Any challenges related to diversity among loved ones. For example, navigating options for couples in mixed religious marriages.
- Any additional resources or referrals that you may need, such as identity-affirming and identity-educated grief support options.

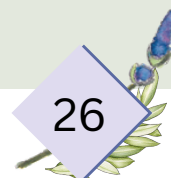


Your Rights & Things to Know

- Funeral professionals may receive no specialized training for LGBTQIA+ or RSSI competencies. Some will seek such education on their own, but not all do so. It is appropriate to ask what a person's training and experience is with serving your identity. You should be comfortable with the person and company you're working with. You can ask for a different deathcare professional or seek alternative companies and options.
- Embalming, which can be a choice based on personal, religious, ethical, or ecological values, is not required by law. However, it may be otherwise required in some circumstances.
- You may want to ask what happens if you make a plan and change your mind, such as choosing cremation now but later converting to a religion that requires traditional burial? What if you die while traveling, or don't use the plan for some reason? What costs cannot be covered in advance?
- If you feel pressured by a salesperson or are unsure, don't sign. You can schedule a follow-up meeting so you can take time to reflect.
- You are not required to purchase your merchandise (e.g., caskets, urns) from the funeral home. You can order custom options from Amazon, Etsy, local artists, and other sources.
- If choosing to use both, you don't have to use the same company for funeral home and cemetery needs.
- Providers may offer you a package or bundle with a discount; you can also select only the items or services that are meaningful to you with some exceptions, such as required fees.
- You have the right to view and refer to a funeral home or cemetery's price lists as you speak with the funeral professional. You can request prices in person or by phone (many can be found on the company website).
- You have a right to review a clear list of all items purchased BEFORE you pay.

Some Rules, Regulations, & Guidelines

- The Federal Trade Commission's Funeral Rule: consumer.ftc.gov/articles/ftc-funeral-rule
- The National Funeral Directors Association's Consumer Guide: nfd.org
- Funeral Consumers Alliance: funerals.org





To Those Entrusted With My Arrangements...

Summarize what you want those handling your deathcare to know about your identity and how it may inform your deathcare decisions.

As you've journeyed through this workbook, what are some key things you've learned or reflected on regarding identity and deathcare?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin blue border, intended for the user to write their responses to the prompts above.



Legal Documents Checklist

The documents needed will vary based on your unique circumstances and wishes. Consult with a legal professional for personalized guidance on what is needed for your planning.

Estate Planning Document Checklist

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Last Will and Testament | <input type="checkbox"/> Revocable and/or Irrevocable Trust |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Durable Power of Attorney | <input type="checkbox"/> Designation of Guardian for Children (and pets) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advance Healthcare Directives (Living Will) | <input type="checkbox"/> Final Disposition Authorization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare Surrogate | <input type="checkbox"/> Deathcare surrogate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HIPAA Authorization(s) for medical information access | <input type="checkbox"/> Inter Vivos Cremation Authorization |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Succession planning documents |

Location of Documents: _____

Date(s) of last update or document review: _____

Name of Law Firm and Attorney: _____

Location and Phone Number: _____

Other helpful documents & info to gather

- List of bank accounts, banks, credit cards, and all financial institutions, investments, etc.
- Life insurance policies
- Vital Records: birth certificates, military documents, marriage certificate(s), name changes, social security card
- Retirement accounts, investments, Financial Advisor(s)
- Deeds and Titles (house, car, boat, trailers, etc.) and related insurance documents
- Digital life: website domain ownerships, emails, online profiles, online accounts, social media accounts, online shopping accounts, etc.



Legal Document Checklists

Most of this book is dedicated to planning for care after death: reflecting on your wishes and providing guidance to those who will be caring for you and handling decisions as you near death and after your death.

Your financial and legal planning does even more than that—it ensures that your legacy is protected and that your loved ones have the tools needed to carry out your wishes in the event of death or incapacity.

If you are working with a legal professional, share your concerns related to your identity so they can offer guidance and make recommendations for documents and other instruments that may be needed in your unique circumstance.

My legal questions or concerns:



Final Arrangements Checklist

Just like with the legal documents, everyone’s “checklist” looks a little different depending on unique circumstances and wishes. Consult with family, friends, faith or Humanist leaders, funeral professionals, and others as you consider options and build a plan that honors your personal journey and values.

Final Arrangements Checklist

- Choose funeral home or other decedent care plan

This may include:

- Professional services, transportation, care of body, cremation, etc.
- Funeral services (if applicable)
- Other needs (forwarding to another state, etc.)

- Final resting place plan (cemetery, scattering, etc.)

This may include:

- Cemetery plan (space, vault if required, fees)
- Permit(s) for scattering, home burial, etc.
- Marker/headstone/monument (can be pre-designed)

Documents you may have

- Funeral home or Crematory Contract

Name of Funeral Home: _____

Location and Phone Number: _____

Contract #(s): _____

- Cemetery

Name of Cemetery: _____

Location and Phone Number: _____

Contract #(s): _____



Self-Authorization for Cremation

If choosing cremation, complete an **Inter Vivos Cremation Authorization**.

This is a self-authorization for cremation that you can complete while living to declare your wish to be cremated and designate the person who is authorized to take custody of your cremated remains. A basic form is below; *check to see if anything different or further is needed in your state.*

I (full legal name) _____ want to be cremated.

I have pre-arranged my cremation with the following funeral home or crematory, and authorize them to make arrangements for the transportation, storage before cremation, final disposition, and cremation of my remains.

OR

_____ Funeral Home or Crematory

I have not pre-arranged my cremation, but authorize my deathcare surrogate to choose a funeral home or crematory, and authorize that funeral home or crematory to make arrangements for the transportation, storage before cremation, final disposition, and cremation of my remains.

Receipt or Delivery of Ashes (choose one)

My Deathcare Surrogate is authorized to receive my cremated remains and/or arrange for their placement or scattering.

I designate the following person(s) to receive my cremated remains. Note, there can be more than one, as ashes may be split into multiple containers.

Deliver my cremated remains directly to the cemetery:

_____ (Initial) I understand if my designated surrogate(s) are not available, decline, or cannot be located, the funeral professionals in charge of my care will contact my next of kin or dispose of cremated remains per their policy.



Deathcare Surrogate



Like a Healthcare Surrogate, a Deathcare Surrogate is authorized to carry out your wishes and make decisions on your behalf.

Your Healthcare Surrogate handles your decisions while you are still alive, but that authority generally ends when your death occurs.

After death, there is a designated “next of kin” (which may vary by state) to handle your disposition, final arrangements, and other deathcare decisions as well as receive death certificates and cremated remains.

If you grant a durable Power of Attorney to someone, that authority ends at the time of your death just as the Healthcare Surrogate designation.

If you wish to designate someone other than your next of kin to handle your final arrangements after you die, you can assign a **Deathcare Surrogate**. This is someone you grant authority to work with deathcare professionals if you don’t want your next of kin to be involved in the decision making or to have authority to make decisions.

It is important to designate someone you trust to honor your wishes.

Make sure those you’ve chosen are aware of your wishes, location of documents (including this workbook), and are named and designated where needed as applicable and required in your state. If documents are located in a safety deposit box, make sure the person is authorized to enter the box after you pass away.

You might also check with your chosen provider(s) to ensure that they will honor your designation of a Deathcare Surrogate. I have spoken to funeral directors who say they would refuse to honor a legally declared Deathcare Surrogate designation because deferring to next of kin is what they have always done.



Deathcare Surrogate

I give my Deathcare Surrogate named below control of my final disposition decisions. They shall have the authority to handle arrangements with any funeral home, funeral professional, cemetery, crematory, memorial or marker designer, or other related provider following my death.

I give my Deathcare Surrogate named below the authority to receive copies of my death certificate.

I (full legal name) _____ designate as my deathcare surrogate:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Relation: _____

If my deathcare surrogate is not willing, able, or reasonably available to perform their duties, I designate as my alternate deathcare surrogate:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Relation: _____

If my alternate deathcare surrogate is not willing, able, or reasonably available to perform their duties, I designate as my 2nd alternate deathcare surrogate:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Relation: _____

To stand alone, this document must include the witnessing and notarization as required in your state. Use the Execution of Directives in this book, or otherwise ensure this document is properly executed. A stand-alone Deathcare Surrogate form can be downloaded from IADDResource.org



Execution of Directives

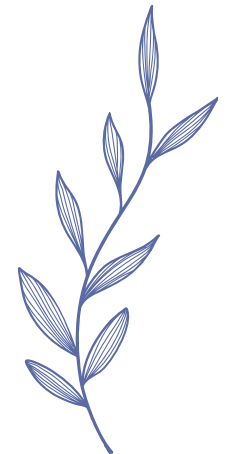
All completed sections of this document are the expectations I have of those making deathcare decisions on my behalf and the deathcare professionals who will be caring for me as I am nearing death and caring for my remains after my death.

I, _____, intend the completed sections of this IADD Workbook and/or my Deathcare Surrogate designation and/or Inter Vivos Cremation Authorization, to provide guidance regarding the honoring of my identity and related wishes to family and friends, hospital and hospice care, funeral and cemetery professionals, and other deathcare professionals caring for my remains and working with my loved ones after my death, and to any other individuals or businesses involved in my deathcare.



Signature: _____ Date: _____
Printed Legal Name: : _____
Printed Preferred Name (if different) _____
Phone Number: _____ Email: _____
Address: _____

Witness 1: _____ Date: _____
Legal Name: : _____ Preferred Name: _____
Phone Number: _____ Email: _____
Address: _____



Witness 2: _____ Date: _____
Legal Name: : _____ Preferred Name: _____
Phone Number: _____ Email: _____
Address: _____



Acknowledgement by Notary Public

State/Commonwealth of _____ County _____

- In person
- Online

On this _____ day of _____, _____, before me, _____, the undersigned Notary Public, appeared _____

- Personally Known to me **OR** Proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person whose name is subscribed within the instrument and acknowledged to me that they executed the same for the purposes therein stated.

Signature of Notary Public: _____
Date of Expiration of Appointment: : _____

Notary Seal:



Affirming Grief Support

Whether we want to make sure our loved ones can access meaningful grief support in the future or we're seeking affirming support personally right now, there are resources. *You are not alone.*

LGBTQIA+ people and those of diverse religious, religious, secular, and spiritual identities may feel isolated and othered in traditional grief spaces where our grief may seem invalidated or where the complexities of our loss are not acknowledged or understood.

It's important to find grief care where we can express ourselves without judgement. Affirming therapists, grief group leaders, and other professionals and volunteers who are educated about our identity can create meaningful space for hope and healing in our lives. They can offer a supportive network that nurtures a sense of belonging and shared experience, an outlet for expression and validation of feelings, and development and practice of healthy coping strategies.

Screen grief care professionals for inclusion as you would any other health or deathcare professional. **You deserve care and professional presence that is supportive, identity-affirming, and identity-educated.**

What are some grief support resources available in my community?





From Tee...



When i first learned of this pre-need funeral sales job opportunity, i was skeptical—of sales in general; of sales in an industry that could potentially prey on grieving, vulnerable people; of being able to make a positive impact; of being an Atheist diving into the deep end of a faith-biased industry; and whether i could make a living at it.

The decision to leap was inevitable, though. I felt in my heart the service impact of the role, but more: my background always included advocacy & DEI work. Had you ever thought about how diverse identities experience deathcare? I hadn't. So...

I researched a bit & was shocked—*heartbroken*—by the personal stories: people being turned away from funeral homes or grief care; having a legacy dishonored by non-affirming or under-educated families and deathcare professionals; facing the stress of coming out to funeral professionals while navigating grief and loss; feeling like the death journey was “ruined”; and so much more. In my past service as an Humanist community leader, Secular Safe Zone facilitator, Recovering From Religion peer group leader, and other roles, i'd heard many stories from both secular and LGBTQIA+ individuals; however, looking at the experience of othering through this new lens of deathcare was poignant.

I searched for information & resources, but they were scarce. We needed more information. More resources. More local & national conversation about inclusion in deathcare. From reflection on how i might help, this project was born, with the first edition released in 2022. Since then i've been grateful to see more and more inclusion in deathcare work blossoming across the country. I hope this workbook will empower *you* to have more control over your own deathcare and that it will also contribute to the creation of space for solution-focused discussions about death and dying for diverse identities.

As for my initial skepticism about sales in deathcare, my ability to make a positive impact is no longer a concern. Being a pre-planning advisor is like being a ... *time travel agent*. There's this moment in the future when your loved ones will face the process of making heavy emotional, financial, and logistical decisions about your deathcare. We can take that terrible moment and pull it back in time to today so that you can take that burden off of their shoulders and make those decisions for yourself—to tell your own story, your way—and create a plan that honors your values, wishes, lifestyle, and identity.

Being a mission-focused pre-planning advisor with the passion and competencies to intentionally serve LGBTQIA+ & RSSI communities elevates how i have invested my talent. I'm so grateful to have the opportunity to serve in this industry and, hopefully, i've made some small difference.

I work to create a world where every grieving person and every dying and deceased person, of every identity, is treated with equal compassion.
Every person deserves to be authentically honored in deathcare.

TEE *tee* ROGERS



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Notes of Gratitude...

Rebeka M. De Pontes, Clinical healthcare professional providing research and guidance. Her doctoral research project for her Doctor in Nursing Practice (DNP) program examined the IADD for policy and practical applications in serving secular identities: “Identity Affirming Deathcare Directives (IADD) Analysis for Healthcare Application”.

Jennifer Wright-Berryman, national inclusion in deathcare leader (Equal Deathcare project, equaldeathcare.org) and researcher who provided content review and guidance. She is doing national advocacy work in tandem with her death studies research to make death care more equitable and accessible for LGBTQIA+ people.

Recovering From Religion (recoveringfromreligion.org), for their work on inclusion in deathcare resources and advocacy for secular people and others journeying away from a religion.

BizzyNate Creative (bizzynate.com), creation of fillable, digital-friendly document.

Petra Hays, treasured friend and fabulously persnickety proofreader.

Santos & Matt, for opening a door i didn’t even know was there and pressing the launch button on a wild new adventure.

...and all who gave support and encouragement for this project.





Terms as we've used 'em...

Affirming Provider - This is a provider (business or professional) offering a space where you can be openly who you are. A space where you can be present as your authentic self and feel welcomed, honored, respected, and accepted. Where you can ask for accommodations without hesitancy and feel confident that your request is heard.

Celebrant - certified professional who composes, creates, and officiates personalized unique ceremonies as an alternative to traditional religious ceremonies. Funeral Celebrants can often also help with eulogy composition, ceremony planning, unique ceremony elements and rituals, and more. Certifications include Humanist Celebrant (The Humanist Society), Funeral Celebrant (InSight Institute), Life-Cycle Celebrants® (Celebrant Foundation & Institute), Celebrant Academy, Academy of Modern Celebrancy, and more.

Deathcare Provider - any professional or business that serves families who have a loved one nearing death or having passed away, or provides direct care for the decedent. This may include hospice, hospital, chaplains and Humanist clergy, death doulas, funeral homes, funeral directors, preplanning professionals, celebrants, grief counselors, etc.

Deathcare Surrogate - The person you designate to handle your final arrangements after you pass away. This may include decisions about cremation or burial, final resting place, services, receipt of cremated remains, death certificates, and other documents. Note that if you do not name a Deathcare Surrogate, the “next of kin” as designated by law in your state will automatically assume that role. If you are comfortable with the person assigned by law, you may not need to designate a Deathcare Surrogate.

Faith-Based vs. Faith-Biased - faith-based may refer to how a professional’s own RSSI informs their life and profession; faith-biased may refer to a person (or company or industry) pushing their own faith on others or having a faith expectation of others, making faith-informed assumptions or judgements about others, or normalizing or elevating one perspective above others in options available or presented, language, décor, and other means both subtle and obvious.

No one should have to pray to nor defer to someone else's G/god(s) in order to give or receive end-of-life care. -t.



Terms as we've used 'em...

Identity-Educated Provider - This is an individual or company with cultural competency specific to your identity and knowledgeable about options that are available to you. They can and will proactively make recommendations that inform and empower you and your loved ones.

LGBTQIA+ = Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual and (+) other sexual and gender identities.

Remembrance Services - any gathering to honor someone's life, such as visitations or viewings, funerals, memorials, celebrations of life, funeral receptions, etc.. Several services may be combined in succession, such as a visitation, then a funeral mass, then a graveside service, then a funeral reception. These are generally held after a death occurs; however, some may choose living funerals in lieu of after-death ceremonies or in addition to them.

RSSI - Religious, Secular, and Spiritual Identities. This is an inclusive replacement for "interfaith", acknowledging that not all people identify as "within" "faith." Religio-centric terms (interfaith, interdenominational, non-denominational, etc.) exclude some secular and spiritual identities.

Notes



Afterward

Life is finite. We're here for a short time; at some point, our journey ends. Those who have walked with us along the way and those who will be part of our journey as the road narrows, they are the ones who will carry our legacy with them.

That legacy is different for everyone. It's the impact we make on those around us and the difference we make in the world. You *do* make a difference, and you *do* make the world a better place in so many different ways.

Hopefully this reflection work has been meaningful to you. It can also be a gift to others if you choose to use this tool to create a plan for how your identity should be honored and share that plan with those who will need that guidance.

This workbook, and any other planning steps you've taken, can lighten the load that your loved ones will have to carry when they're handling your final wishes. Having your voice to guide them regarding how to honor your identity means they'll never worry whether they've made choices that truly honor YOU. Speaking and living your truth in life, and having that truth honored beyond your life, takes bravery and strength.

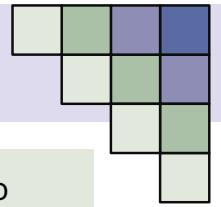
Thank you for your courage and preparedness. It's not easy to think about our mortality and how our death may impact others. Many are not able to do that at all. Further, only a rare few reflect on how their identity informs their deathcare decisions - and provide directives to guide loved ones and professionals who will one day be responsible for your deathcare.

You are AMAZING.





Writing and Reflection Prompts



Who in my chosen family would I like to include in my deathcare plans? Who would I like to discuss planning with? How would I start that conversation?

Large rounded rectangular box for writing the response to the first prompt.

What conflicts or challenges may arise regarding my deathcare?

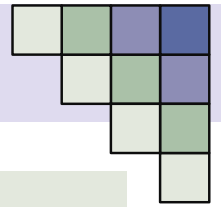
Large rounded rectangular box for writing the response to the second prompt.

Did I learn anything new about myself through these reflections?

Large rounded rectangular box for writing the response to the third prompt.



Writing and Reflection Prompts



To me, authenticity in life and in death means...

Large empty rounded rectangular box for writing a response to the prompt above.

This is a sketch, drawing, or painting of my headstone, marker, monument, niche or mausoleum plate, or other permanent memorialization, including use of my name, words of endearment, quotes, illustrations / engravings, etc.

Large empty rounded rectangular box for drawing or sketching a memorialization.







*Every grieving person
and every dying
and deceased person
of every identity
deserves to be treated
with equal compassion
and to be
authentically honored
in deathcare.*

IADDResource.org

