

WHAT STEPS SHOULD YOU FOLLOW WHEN A DEATH OCCURS?

If the death occurs in the hospital:

- A hospital or nursing facility representative will outline what you need to do.
- Have a nurse contact the mortuary of your choice.
- Contact the church so that we can be of support to you.
- Contact out-of-town family and friends.
- Talk with a pastor before making final plans with the mortuary.
- Look over documents pertaining to pre-arranged funeral plans.
- Locate important papers (Social Security number, military discharge papers, etc.) needed by the funeral home.
- Call on friends and the church to assist you in this time of grief.

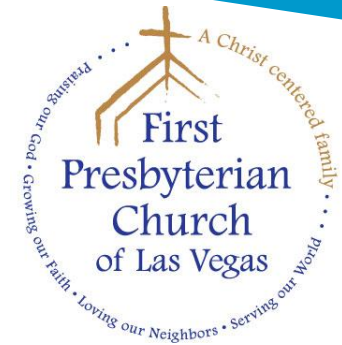
If death occurs at home:

- Contact hospice (if applicable) or emergency services.
- Follow the steps listed above.



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Funeral Planning

"...I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

John 11:25-26

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WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A FUNERAL AND A MEMORIAL SERVICE?

The funeral service is one in which the casket is present. When a casket is present it is closed. The funeral service is ordinarily held within a few days following the death. The memorial service is one in which the body is not present. It may be held days, weeks, or even months after death. Sometimes families prefer that the cremains be present for such a service. The choice between a memorial or funeral service is based solely upon the wishes and desires of the family.

WHERE SHOULD THE SERVICE BE HELD?

The service on the occasion of death ordinarily should be held in the usual place of worship in order to join this service to the community's continuing life and witness to the resurrection. The service shall be under the direction of the pastor. Local funeral homes will work with you on this.

WHEN SHOULD A SERVICE BE HELD?

The needs of the family should be taken into consideration. Funerals normally occur within several days of the death. Memorial services can take place at any time. It is important to contact one of the pastors prior to finalizing the plans at the funeral home.

ARE THERE FEES FOR USE OF THE CHURCH?

A fee schedule is available at the church office. There are charges for the building use, funeral coordinator, pastor, organist, soloist, reception area and kitchen if they are used. (See the Funeral/Memorial Service Form.)



HOW MUCH DOES A FUNERAL COST?

Funeral costs vary widely according to the desires of the family. Advanced funeral plans can be made with funeral homes, or funds may be set aside in a personal account for such a purpose.

Options which can control costs include:

- Immediate and simple burial
- Cremation or donation of the body to a medical school
- Transportation of the body to a distant location, various state laws
- Choice of burial place
- Choice of vault
- Mausoleum fees
- Additional services such as flowers, limousines, etc.

WHAT IS APPROPRIATE MUSIC FOR A FUNERAL OR MEMORIAL SERVICE?

Since a funeral or memorial service is a celebration of the resurrection of Christ and the hope we have in Him, it is appropriate that the service be uplifting and joyous. Appropriate music for the service would include:

- Resurrection hymns
- Christian songs and hymns
- Spiritual songs
- Classical music
- Solo, ensemble and/or congregational singing
- Instrumental pieces

*“There is a time for everything
and a season for every activity
under heaven: a time to be born
and a time to die...”
- Ecclesiastes 3:1-2*

WHAT DOES THE CHRISTIAN FAITH SAY ABOUT DISPOSITION OF THE BODY?

This should be done with respect. However, this can be accomplished in many ways:

Burial—is the most common. Genesis reminds us that we are created from the dust of the earth. And when we have no more use for an earthly body we return it to the earth from which it came. Burial may be either in the earth directly, in a mausoleum, or in an aboveground crypt.

Cremation—is not contrary to Christian belief. The body returns to dust whether by natural means or by an accelerated means such as cremation. The cremains may be disposed of either by burial, placement in a niche at the mortuary, scattered (laws permitting) or be retained by relatives.

Donation—of the entire body to a medical school for research or donation of various organs which may benefit the living are also in keeping with the Christian faith. It is a selfless and generous act which offers one's body for the benefit of others. If you choose to donate your body or various organs, pre-arrangement must be made with a medical school or donor center. This can be done very simply by obtaining a uniform donor card or by utilizing the anatomical gifts card from the DMV which can be attached to your Nevada driver's license.

Other Facts to Know

- Fraternal & Civic Services should be conducted separately.
- Flowers/plants are allowed for the service and should be disseminated afterward.
- In lieu of flowers Memorial Gifts may be made either to a charity or First Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas. Memorial gifts at First Presbyterian Church are used for mission projects or furnishing the needs of the church.
- Dark or somber colored clothing is not required.