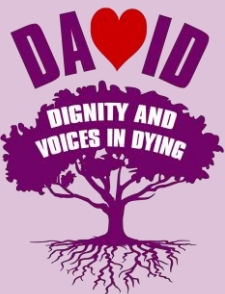
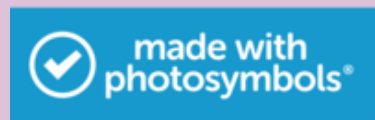


Funeral Planning Information Booklet



People First
Speaking out in Merseyside



What is in this booklet?



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**What is a
Funeral?**

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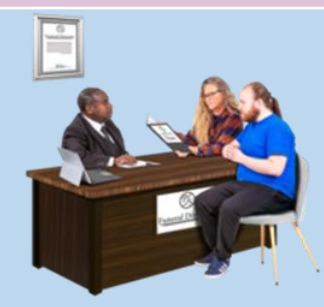
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Photo Story

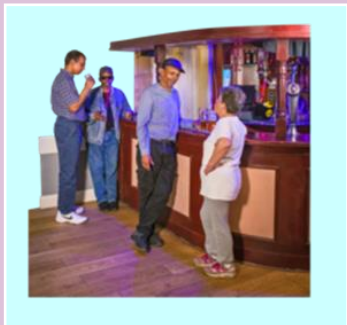
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Introduction



- This booklet is about Funeral planning.



- It is one of a series of booklets which provide information about end-of-life planning and bereavement.

There are some words in this booklet that you may not know.



You can find the meaning of all the words in **Purple** in the **Important Words I Need to Know** section on **page 22**.

This Booklet will cover:



- Deciding what you want the funeral to be like.



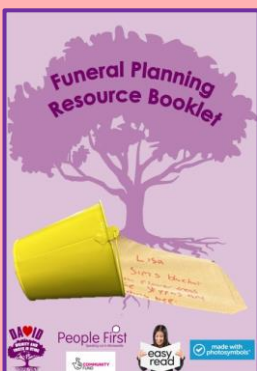
- Contacting a funeral director



- Ways to pay for a funeral.



There is also a **Funeral Planning Activity Booklet** which includes activities and games about Funeral Planning if you would like to find out more.



You can find the resources that you need for the activities in the **Funeral Planning Resource Booklet**.



What is a Funeral?



- A funeral is a special ceremony which takes place after someone has died.



- A funeral can be in a religious building, in a crematorium or in another special place.



- Family and friends go to the funeral to remember the person who has died.



- Funerals can be sad but they are a good way to share memories and happy stories too



- After the funeral, there is usually a **burial** or **cremation** of the body.



- There are different kinds of funerals



- You can decide what you would like your funeral to be like.



- You can make a plan and tell someone important to you

or



- You can plan a funeral with a funeral director.



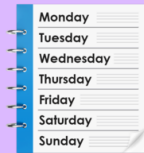
Religious Funerals



- Different faiths have different **funeral practices** and customs.



- These different funeral practices may include the way the body is cared for after death, what people wear at the funeral and how quickly the funeral takes place.



- Tell a funeral director if your faith is important to you and if you would like to arrange a religious funeral.



The funeral director will make sure that all the correct religious practices are followed.



or

The Funeral Director may know of another local company which specializes in the funerals of people from your faith.



You can decide which funeral director you would prefer to use.



There may also be an area of the cemetery where people of the same faith may choose to be buried.

Talking to a Funeral Director



You can talk to a funeral director:

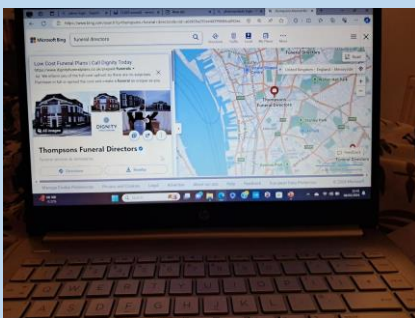


- If you are arranging a funeral for a friend or family member who has died

or



- If you want to plan your own funeral,



- You can find a local funeral director by looking online or by asking friends or family.



- You can make an appointment to go and see the funeral director

or



- You may be able to make all the funeral arrangements over the phone

or



- You can just walk into the funeral directors without an appointment and tell them you want to arrange a funeral.



- The funeral director can also visit you at home to help you plan a funeral.



- When you talk to the funeral director you will need to tell them who the funeral will be for.



- You can tell them what **you** want the funeral to be like.



- The funeral director will ask you questions to make sure the funeral is what you want.



- You can choose what kind of **coffin** you would like and whether you would like a cremation or burial.



- If you want a cremation you can choose an **urn**.



- You can decide whether you want the funeral to be at the crematorium, or in a religious building, or at another special place,



- You can decide if you want someone to give a speech about you, called a **eulogy**.



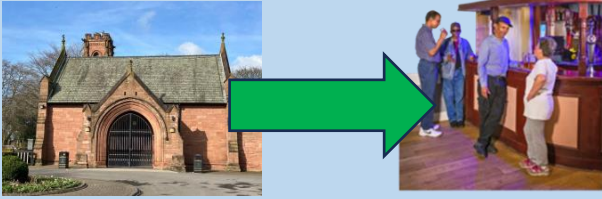
- You can choose the music you want to be played and whether you would like flowers.



- You can decide if you want a special type of **hearse**.



- You can even decide what food to have at the wake.



- If you are arranging someone else's funeral you can ask the funeral director to take you from the funeral to the wake.



- You can decide if you want a notice in the newspaper



- You can decide if you would like something in remembrance – maybe a tree, or a bench, a rose bush or wildflowers.



- The funeral director will tell you how much the funeral will cost and then you can decide how to pay for this.



- If you want to change the funeral plan, just let the funeral director know as soon as possible.



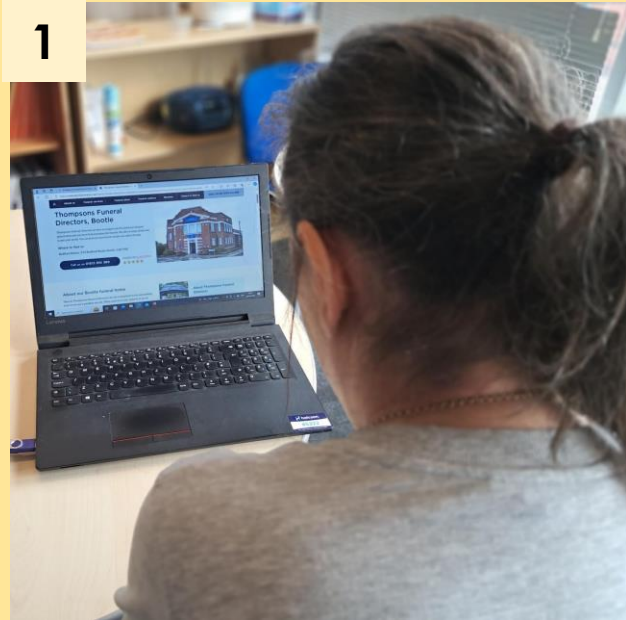
- If you have made your own funeral plan with a funeral director, talk to the people closest to you so they understand your wishes



- REMEMBER to tell the funeral director what you want **AND** what you don't want.

This is your decision

Photo Story: Tracy's Funeral Plan



Tracy decided to plan her funeral. She looked online to find a local Funeral Director.



She phoned the funeral director to make an appointment.



The funeral director explained that Tracy could be buried or cremated



Tracy chose the flowers, the cars, the music and the food for the wake.

A photo story can be a good way to explain how to do something by telling a story in words and pictures. This photo story explains how to make a funeral plan by telling the story of Tracy and her visit to the funeral director.



Tracy arrived at the Funeral Director's and introduced herself.



She told the Funeral Director what she wanted for her funeral.



She asked how much the funeral would cost. She decided to pay for it in installments



Tracy felt very proud of herself for planning her funeral



Paying for the funeral



- The way that a funeral is paid for can depend on whether the plan is being made in advance

or



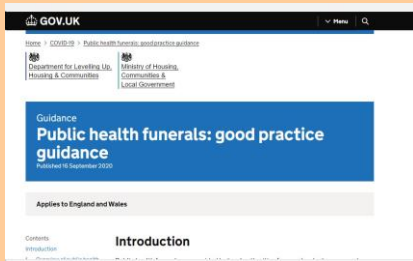
- If funeral is for someone who has just died.



- If someone dies without paying for a funeral plan, then the money for the funeral is usually taken from their **estate**.



- If the person who died did not leave enough money to pay for the funeral, then family and friends may be able to help pay for it.



- If there is not enough money to pay for the funeral, then the local authority will pay for a **public health funeral**.



- If you are organising someone's funeral, but you don't have enough money, you may be able to get a **funeral expenses payment**.



- The funeral director can help you fill out the forms for the funeral expenses payment.



- If you need advice with funeral costs, you can also talk to the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)



- If you are paying for your funeral plan in advance, the funeral director will explain the costs and you can usually choose to pay in instalments or all in one go.



The Wake



- After a funeral the family and friends may gather together to celebrate the person who has died.



- This is often called the **wake** and it gives people the chance to share their memories.



- You can choose the type of wake you would like before you die.



- A wake may be small and quiet or it can be like a big party with lots of people.



- A wake can be in the house of family or friends, or it may be in a café, pub, hotel or another special place.



- When you plan your funeral, you can think about the wake as well.



- You can choose where you would like it to be, the type of food and drink and the favourite songs you want to be played.



- Sometimes people don't feel like going to a wake after a funeral and this is ok.

Important Words I need to Know



- **Burial:** the dead body is buried in the ground usually in a cemetery or graveyard



- **Coffin:** the special box that the body is usually placed in before burial or cremation. It may be made of wood, bamboo, cane or even cardboard. In some faiths and in green burials, the body is not placed in a coffin, it is simply buried in a shroud.



- **Cremation:** The body in the coffin is placed in a special furnace called a cremator. The body is burned and the ash is collected and placed in a special urn.



- **Estate:** The money and property someone may leave when they die.



- **Eulogy** The speech someone makes to remember a person who has died, usually at the funeral.



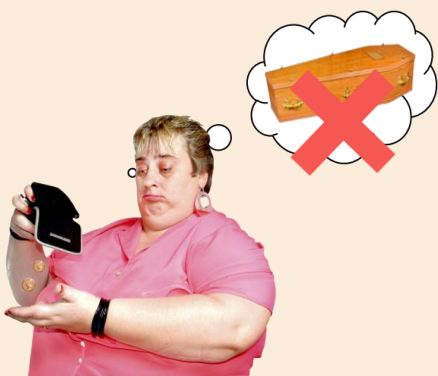
- **Funeral practices:** The special rituals and customs which happen following a death. The body may be laid out at home for example, or the family and friends may be dressed in special clothes.



- **Funeral expenses payment:** A payment to help pay for funeral costs if the person organising the funeral is on certain benefits and is a close relative of the person who died.



- **Hearse:** The vehicle which takes the coffin to the funeral service. The hearse is often a large black car, but people can request a different kind of hearse.



- **Public health funeral:** When someone who dies has no family or if the family and friends are unable or unwilling to pay for the funeral, then the local authority will pay for a basic burial or cremation.



- **Urn:** After someone dies the ashes are usually put in an urn and returned to family and friends. Sometimes people decide to scatter the ashes in a special place.



More Information

DAVID Project: Funeral Planning Podcast Episode:

- www.open.spotify.com/episode/1lkfnUVBC3mjWjbgQ1WnRc

DAVID Project: Funeral Planning Film

www.youtu.be/tmK39-ddCro

Financial advice:

- Citizens Advice Bureau help with many different problems you may encounter in everyday life, including advice on how to pay for a funeral and applying for benefits.

National Adviceline (England):

0800 1448848

Or find your local branch:

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/contact-us/contact-us

- Government Tell Once

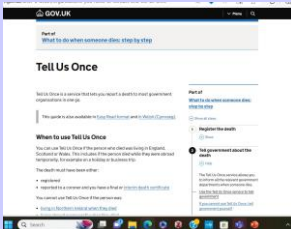
Enables you to tell lots of different government departments about a death in one go:

www.gov.uk/after-a-death/organisations-you-need-to-contact-and-tell-us-once

• **Practical Advice After a Death**

- The Bereavement Advice Centre

<https://www.bereavementadvice.org/>

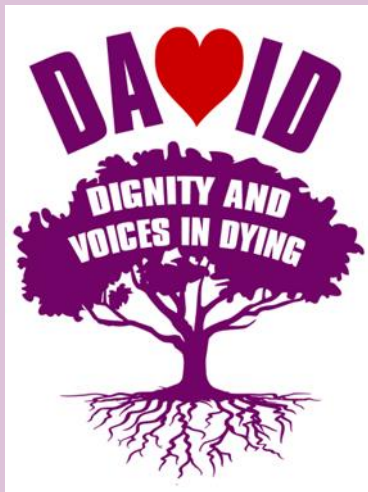


With thanks to Lizzie Robinson and the Dignity Funerals Team at Thompsons Funeral Directors, Bootle, for all their help and guidance in making this booklet.

The DAVID Project



Thank you for picking up this booklet about funeral planning.



This booklet was made by the members of The DAVID Project.



The DAVID project is run by the members of People First Merseyside, a self-advocacy organization for adults with learning disabilities and/or autism.



The DAVID Project started after a member named David Morley passed away.



David hadn't made any end-of-life plans and had no close family.



Because of this, the members of People First Merseyside got together to work out how to give David the send-off he deserved.



This helped the members to understand how important it is to have an end-of-life plan in place before you die.



The members also realized that while death can be scary, it is an important part of life and should not be ignored.



The DAVID Project's goal is to make death easier to talk about and to encourage people to put plans into place in case the unexpected happens.

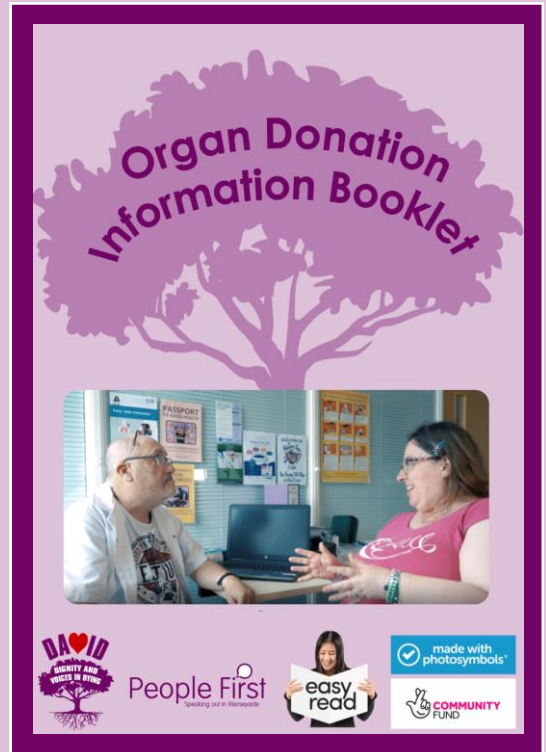
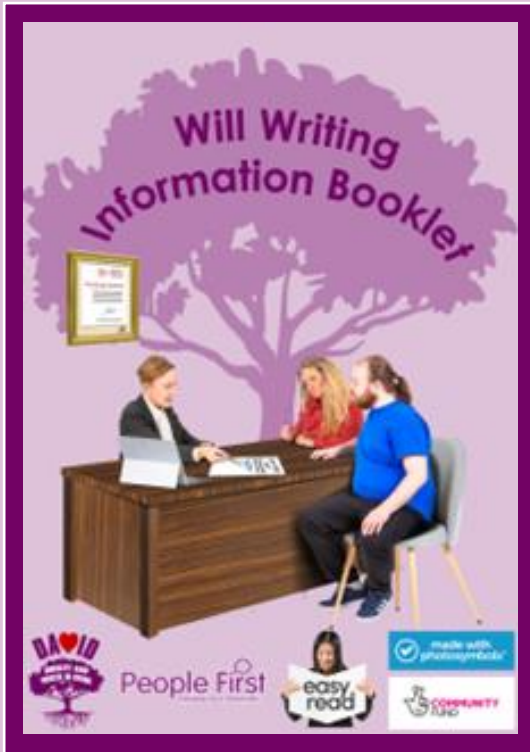


The members also want to make information about end-of-life plans more accessible to everyone including people with learning disabilities and autistic people.

If you liked this booklet, you may also be interested in one of our other booklets such as ...

Will Writing Booklet

Organ Donation Booklet



To find out more look on our website or give us a call:

 www.peoplefirstmerseyside.co.uk 



0151 329 2137

