SEVEN STONES™
CHATFIELD

PREPLANNING CHECKLIST

End-of-life planning can be overwhelming. There are more than 70 details to attend to in the first 48 hours after a death. It's a huge responsibility for loved ones amid the whirlwind of grief. Fortunately, you can take care of many of these items ahead of time. When you preplan for a funeral or burial, you can make things easier for your loved ones, and you can ensure that the details of your funeral and burial are exactly as you would like them to be.

Funeral services and memorials can be intensely personal and incredibly diverse, reflecting your life and personality. Outside of the traditions called for in your religious beliefs, there are few right or wrong answers — it's up to you! As you think about the details of your funeral and burial, here are some items to consider:

NOTES

- ☐ **Do you want to be buried or cremated?**
- ☐ **If you are seeking cremation, would you like your ashes to be scattered, placed above ground, or buried? If buried, would you like a traditional urn or a biodegradeable urn?**
- ☐ **If you are seeking a casket burial, would you like a traditional burial, green burial, or a monument?**
- ☐ **What kind of memorial would you like?**
- ☐ **Which Cemetery and Local Funeral Home do you prefer?**
- ☐ **Is there a particular location within a cemetery that you desire, or family whom you want to be near?**
- ☐ **Where would you like to hold your funeral service?**
- ☐ **Would you like to have the casket or urn present at your funeral service?**
- ☐ **Would you like to have a viewing or wake? If so, where would you like it to be held, and what should the tone be—Somber? Uplifting? Formal? Casual?**
- ☐ **Would you like to have a reception after the ceremonies? If so, what does that look like?**
- ☐ **Would you like to have a graveside service?**
- ☐ **Would you like pallbearers at your funeral?**
- ☐ **Are there personal items that you'd like to have at your funeral service?**

PREPLANNING CHECKLIST (CONTINUED)

NOTES

- ☐ **Would you like certain music and readings at your funeral service? If so, which songs and readings would you choose?**
- ☐ **Which photos would you like to have displayed at your funeral service? And which photo would you like to use for the announcement?**
- ☐ **Do you want special flowers at your service?**
- ☐ **Will the family need transportation between the funeral home and the cemetery?**
- ☐ **Who would you like to officiate at ceremonies?**
- ☐ **Would you like someone to deliver a eulogy?**
- ☐ **Who should be notified after a death? Prepare a list with contact information.**
- ☐ **Are there organizations or charities you'd like friends and family to donate to in your honor?**
- ☐ **How would you like your obituary to read?**
- ☐ **What is my budget, and how will I pay for the funeral and cemetery expenses?**

The National Funeral Directors Association (http://www.nfda.org/for-the-public) has created a list of ways to personalize a service. And the Federal Trade Commission (http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0300-ftc-funeral-rule) offers guidance on how to be an informed consumer when planning a funeral and choosing a cemetery. We've also prepared a list of paperwork to gather in advance to help when Meeting With A Funeral Director (http://www.discoversevenstones.com/immediate-needs).

A living will is also an important part of end-of-life planning. You can talk to an attorney or find templates online. Within a living will you can spell out your desires regarding medical treatment and advance directives, and you often can make your wishes known for organ and tissue donation as well, saving your family the burden of making that call at the most difficult moment.

There are many other details to consider with regard to end-of-life planning. While this list is not comprehensive, and not all may be relevant, it's worth thinking about:

- Who you would like to be executor of your estate
- Who you would like to represent your living will
- Guardianship for children or for adults who need ongoing care
- A collection of passwords, keys and security codes for alarms, safes, lock boxes, social media, bank accounts, subscription services and the like
- Special wishes for collectibles, rare automobiles, jewelry and the like
- A budget within which you'd like your family to work for the funeral and burial or cremation

At Seven Stones, we can walk you through the process and help you with all of these decisions—even if you decide we're not the right cemetery for you. So please don't hesitate to give us a call!