



Making Final Arrangements After the Death of Your Child

When it comes to saying finding a final resting place for your child, you have many considerations and choices to make. A funeral director or religious advisor can help in making decisions about funeral arrangements, as well as answer questions about burial, cremation, funeral gatherings, etc. You may also contact the MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital Bereavement Coordinator for assistance and guidance. As you make arrangements for your child, please consider the following:

- Take your time. There are very few reasons to hurry through these decisions for final arrangements.
- Have a family member or friend present when deciding on final arrangements as another set of ears and to assist in decision making.
- Ask funeral homes about their costs and how they will care for your child. Many funeral homes and cemeteries will provide reduced rates for final arrangements of infants and children.
- Many funeral homes will promote family involvement and provide opportunities for you to see your child at the funeral home. Please ask about those opportunities (seeing your child, holding your child, dressing your child, etc.) if that is important to you.

Other Tasks to Consider Before Your Child's Funeral/Memorial Service

It can be overwhelming to think through and remember all the tasks that need to be completed prior to your child's funeral or memorial service. Please consider asking family and friends to assist as you feel comfortable. Here are a few things to consider:

- Make a list of people that you need to notify about your child's death and services. This could include family, friends, employers, school personnel, etc.
- Arranging care for household pets, as needed during the time of the services
- Making arrangements for typical household needs, such as paying bills, grocery shopping, cleaning, etc.
- Deciding on specifics of the funeral or memorial services, such as selection of pallbearers, a memorial or where you would like contributions sent, writing an obituary, etc.



Financial Resources for Your Child's Final Arrangements

The death of a child often comes with unexpected expenses. These unplanned expenses can be overwhelming and can often complicate grief. However, there are often resources available to help aid in the funding of final arrangements expenses. The funeral director you choose to work with will be able to help guide and aid you in filling out/filing paperwork for financial assistance when/if applicable. Some potential resources for financial assistance are:

- Medicaid – If your child is receiving Medicaid, contact the Department of Human Services in the county in which your child resides to see if assistance is available.
- Veteran's Benefits – If at least one parent has served in the military, there may be financial assistance available, and your child may be permitted to be buried in a military cemetery. Please visit the [National Cemetery Association website](#) for more information.
- Victim's Assistance – If the child was a victim of a crime, contact the District Attorney's office for information about assistance from the Crime Victim Compensation Fund. Your funeral directory can typically assist with this.