



GEOFFREY T
SOWMAN

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

Burial or Cremation

The deceased may have already chosen whether they wish to be buried or cremated, otherwise it is usually the family's decision.

Burial involves purchasing a plot, which includes a maintenance fee, paying an interment fee to cover the cost of preparing the grave, and purchasing a memorial or headstone. For many people, having a grave with a fitting memorial can be an important part of the grieving process. Burials are usually limited by law to official cemeteries and Maori burial grounds.

Cremation provides more flexibility when choosing a final resting place. Ashes can be buried in a cemetery or placed in a special ashes memorial area, scattered in a garden, at sea, or in a favourite place.

If cremation is chosen, the casket and body are cremated at a very high temperature in a cremator. The process is heavily regulated: there is only room for one casket and all the ashes are taken out before it is used again. After cremation, the ashes are placed in a simple plastic container and can later be transferred into a memorial urn. Geoffrey T Sowman Funeral Directors has a selection of urns available to purchase.

Acknowledgements

It is also appropriate to acknowledge those who have helped you and supported you during this period. A special card or letter should be sent as an acknowledgment of kindness, words of comfort or special contributions to the funeral. Geoffrey T Sowman Funeral Directors can arrange these for you.

Service Sheets

Geoffrey T Sowman Funeral Directors design and print personalised service sheets to an attractive layout including colour photos.

Headstones and Monumental

The choice of a memorial stone or plaque is usually made within the first year. Geoffrey T Sowman Funeral Directors has a range of designs and options for headstones, including ceramic photos.

Additional Services

- The funeral service may be recorded on audio, video or DVD as a lasting memorial.
- Geoffrey T Sowman Funeral Directors has a personalised memorial book available for people to sign when they arrive for the funeral service as a record of those present on the day.
- A photo board and easel are also available for the family to use and display at the funeral.

Funeral Arrangements Explained

Viewing

Many people find that spending time with the deceased person before the funeral service helps provide an acceptance of the death. This can be especially true for children.

It is necessary to make an appointment for the viewing if it is to be held in our rooms. We make every endeavour to meet the wishes of family and friends during this period.

Alternatively, you may wish to have the deceased person at home with you in the lead up to the funeral. This is something that families are asking for more often these days, and it is your decision.

Casket Selection

Geoffrey T Sowman Funeral Directors provide a private casket selection area in our funeral home with a comprehensive range of caskets on display offering a choice of styles, wood finishes and colours. Your choice will balance what you can afford, what is practical and what you see as a fitting tribute. Eco-friendly casket options are available.

Embalming

Geoffrey T Sowman Funeral Directors employ fully qualified embalmers to ensure hygienic preservation and natural presentation. Embalming is a personal choice and is recommended if you wish to have the deceased at home, have them transported some distance, or there is a period of delay before the funeral service.

Pallbearers

Normally four or six pallbearers are required to carry the casket at the funeral service and, if required, at the place of committal. Pallbearers are usually family, special friends, or people from organisations the deceased person belonged to.

Floral Tributes

Geoffrey T Sowman Funeral Directors can arrange flowers to be placed on the casket and, if required, floral arrangements at the funeral venue. After the funeral, floral tributes can stay with the casket or be taken home, sent to a hospital or rest home, left on the grave or delivered elsewhere.

Donations

Where there has been a request that donations be made (in lieu of flowers) Geoffrey T Sowman Funeral Directors supply a donation box and all donations collected are passed on to the named charity.

Transport

Upon request, we are able to arrange the use of a mourner's car for the family to travel to and from the service. After the service, family and friends in the funeral cortège drive with their lights on to the cemetery or crematorium.

A Service to Remember _____

You may wish to record here the arrangements you would like made. These may be lodged at the offices of Geoffrey T Sowman Funeral Directors, your solicitor or with your next-of-kin:

Funeral service for _____

Name of preferred funeral director _____

Funeral service to be held at _____

Is the funeral Prearranged Prepaid

Preferred clergy/celebrant _____

Casket choice (if known) _____

Special music for service _____

Readings _____

Hymns _____

Pallbearers _____

Flowers _____

Donations at the service to _____

Burial or Cremation _____

Plot (if any) New/Re-open Ashes placement Scatter/Inter

Name of doctor _____

Name of solicitor _____

Names and address of next of kin

Draft newspaper notice

Registration of Death

Geoffrey T Sowman Funeral Directors will arrange to register the death with the Department of Internal Affairs. The following details are necessary for the registration of a death. They relate to the person who has died:

Personal Details

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Dr etc) _____

Name at birth _____ First names _____

Address _____

Birth date / / Birth place _____

Ethnicity _____

Are you descended from NZ Maori? Yes No Don't know

If not born in NZ, year of arrival in NZ / /

Profession/Occupation _____

Full name of father _____

Profession/Occupation of father _____

Full name of mother (including birth surname) _____

Profession/occupation of mother _____

Marriage/Civil union details

Relationship status _____

Current spouse/partner name (and birth surname if applicable) _____

Age at marriage/union details _____

Where married/united _____

Living spouse/partner's birth date / /

Subsequent marriages/civil unions _____

Family Details

Children _____

Children birth dates _____

Are you a Justice of the Peace? Yes / No Are you a marriage celebrant? Yes / No

Service Record

Service No. _____ Overseas/NZ service _____

Which war _____ Rank _____ Unit or regiment _____