VALOREN

Free institutional reference
Edition 2026 · valoren.uk
England & Wales

Funeral Wishes Form

A warm, practical record of what you would want — burial or cremation, the kind of service, the music, the people — so those you leave behind are guided, not guessing.

The hardest funeral to arrange is the one planned in the dark, by people who loved you but were never told what you wanted. This form is the small kindness that prevents it. Fill in as much or as little as feels right — even a few firm preferences spare your family the weight of deciding blind, on the worst week of their lives. Leave a field blank and it simply becomes their decision to make freely; there is no wrong answer, and *nothing here is binding on you*. Write in pencil if you like; revisit it as your thinking changes.

How to use this.

Work through the sections in any order, recording what you would want where you have a preference and leaving the rest blank. Tick the boxes that apply and write your own answers on the copper lines. When you are done, **tell the person who is likely to arrange things that this form exists and where it is kept** — a perfect record no one can find has helped no one. This is orientation, not legal advice; the longer walkthroughs and the free Funeral Costs Estimator live at valoren.uk.

Funeral wishes are a strong guide, not a binding instruction.

In England & Wales the law does not make your funeral wishes **legally enforceable**, and they are **not binding even if written into your will**. The final say rests with your **executor or next of kin**, who control the arrangements. In practice, though, families want above all to honour what you wanted — so a *clear, calm record like this one* is almost always followed. Treat it as the guide it is: the more specific and visible you make it, the more confidently your family can act on it.

CONTENTS

I	Who this is for	4
II	Burial or cremation	5
III	The kind of service	7
IV	Venue and setting	8
V	Music and readings	9
VI	Flowers, donations and dress	11
VII	Funeral director and any plan	13
VIII	A personal message	15
IX	Organ and body donation	16
X	At a glance, for whoever arranges it	18

Who this is for I

SECTION I · YOUR DETAILS

So the form can be matched to you without doubt, and so whoever finds it knows at a glance whose wishes these are.

FULL NAME

DATE OF BIRTH

ADDRESS

DATE COMPLETED

Tell someone this form exists

The single most useful thing you can do with this form is make sure the right person knows it is here. Record below who you would expect to arrange your funeral, and where you will keep this form, so it is found at the moment it is needed rather than weeks later.

LIKELY TO ARRANGE THINGS

WHERE THIS IS KEPT

Burial or cremation II

SECTION II · THE FIRST BIG CHOICE

This is the decision families most want guidance on, and the one they most fear getting wrong. Tick what you would want; add a line if there is a particular place or detail that matters to you.

- ☐ Burial ☐ Cremation
- ☐ Natural / woodland burial
- ☐ No strong preference

> ### If burial — any preferred place or plot
>
> **A particular cemetery, churchyard, natural burial ground, or an existing family plot.** If you already hold a **deed of grant** for a plot, note where that document is kept — your family will need it.

If cremation — what should happen to the ashes

Scattered, interred, kept, divided between family, or somewhere specific that means something to you.

Some places *need permission* before ashes are scattered; a wish recorded here lets the family arrange it properly.

PREFERRED PLACE

ASHES — WISHES

The kind of service III

SECTION III · TONE AND CEREMONY

A funeral can be anything from a full religious service to a quiet gathering with no formal ceremony at all. There is no right shape — only the one that feels like you. Tick what fits, and add words if you want to be more specific.

- ☐ Religious service
- ☐ Humanist / non-religious
- ☐ A blend of both
- ☐ No formal ceremony

- ☐ Large gathering — all welcome
- ☐ Small and private
- ☐ Direct cremation, celebration later
- ☐ I'll leave this to my family

If religious — faith, denomination, or officiant

If a particular faith, place of worship, minister, priest, imam, rabbi, or celebrant should lead the service, name them here. If there is a person you would especially like to officiate, say so.

FAITH / OFFICIANT

TONE IN A WORD OR TWO

Venue and setting IV

SECTION IV · WHERE IT HAPPENS

The place can matter as much as the words. A particular church, a favourite spot, a crematorium close to home, or somewhere the family simply finds easiest — note whatever you would prefer.

PREFERRED VENUE

RECEPTION / WAKE

ANYTHING TO AVOID

Music and readings V

SECTION V · THE SOUND AND THE WORDS

For many families this is the part they most want to get right, and the part they most struggle to guess. A song you loved, a hymn, a poem, a passage — naming even one or two takes a real weight off the people choosing.

Music — entrance, reflection, leaving

List any songs, hymns, or pieces you would want, and where in the service if it matters. A single meaningful track is worth more than a long list — but write as many as you like.

Readings, poems, or passages

A reading, a poem, a scripture, or a few words you would want spoken. Note who you might like to read each one, if you have someone in mind.

Flowers, donations and dress

VI

SECTION VI · THE SMALLER CHOICES THAT SAY A LOT

Small decisions that families are often unsure about — and that are far easier when your view is on the page.

Flowers or donations

Many people ask for "family flowers only" with donations to a chosen charity instead. Tick your preference and name the charity if you have one.

☐ Flowers welcome ☐ Family flowers only

☐ Donations instead of flowers ☐ No preference

CHOSEN CHARITY

Dress code

Traditional dark colours, ordinary clothes, a particular colour, or a request for something bright and informal. Whatever puts the people there at ease in the way you would want.

☐ Traditional / formal ☐ Smart but relaxed

☐ Bright colours / no black ☐ No preference

OTHER REQUESTS

Funeral director and any plan

VII

SECTION VII · WHO YOU WOULD TRUST TO ARRANGE IT

If you already have a funeral director in mind, or a pre-paid plan in place, recording it here saves your family a search at the very moment they have no energy for one.

Preferred funeral director

A firm you trust, perhaps one that has served your family before. If you have no preference, your family can compare local firms — *costs vary by hundreds of pounds within a single town*, and the Funeral Costs Estimator on valoren.uk shows the typical range.

Pre-paid funeral plan

If you hold a plan, note the provider and reference. Plan providers have been **FCA-regulated since 29 July 2022**, and a single call from your family with your name and date of birth is usually enough for them to take over the arrangements.

DIRECTOR / FIRM

PLAN PROVIDER

PLAN REFERENCE

A personal message VIII

SECTION VIII · ANYTHING YOU WOULD WANT SAID

This is yours entirely. A few words for the people who will be there, a memory you would like shared, a thank-you, a request, or simply the feeling you would want the day to have. There is no template for this — only what you would want them to know.

Organ and body donation IX

SECTION IX · A SEPARATE, TIME-SENSITIVE DECISION

Organ donation is not a funeral matter and works on its own, much faster timetable — but recording your view here helps your family act, and act in time.

The law, in short

Since 2020 England and Wales operate an "*opt-out*" system: most adults are considered willing to donate unless they have recorded otherwise. Your family is still consulted, so your **recorded wishes — either way — make their decision far easier**. Whatever you decide, register it on the **NHS Organ Donor Register** at organdonation.nhs.uk so it is official, not only written here.

Body donation is arranged in advance

Donating your body to medical science needs your own written, witnessed consent given to a medical school before death. Under the **Human Tissue Act 2004** a family **cannot consent on your behalf afterwards**, and a school can decline at the time. If this is your wish, arrange it directly with the school, keep a copy, and note here where that paperwork is kept.

- ☐ I wish to be an organ donor
- ☐ I do not wish to donate
- ☐ I have registered my decision
- ☐ Body donation arranged

NOTES / WHERE KEPT

At a glance, for whoever arranges it

X

SECTION X · THE ONE-PAGE RECAP

When the time comes, this is the summary a grieving family can read in a minute and act on. Fill in the right-hand column from your answers above; it lets a funeral director take in your core wishes at a single glance.

MATTER	YOUR WISH
Burial / cremation	
Place	
Service type	
Venue	
Music	
Readings	
Flowers / donations	
Dress	
Funeral director	
Pre-paid plan	
Organ donation	

Keep this where it will be found — and say so out loud.

Store this form with your other household papers, and tell the person most likely to arrange your funeral *exactly where it is*. Pair it with the free Funeral Costs Estimator and the Bereavement First Steps guide on valoren.uk, which walk your family through the practical days that follow. Review it now and then; **wishes change**, and a form that still sounds like you is the one a family follows without a second thought.

POWERED BY VALOREN

Funeral Wishes Form is published free by Valoren (Standard Index Group), England & Wales. It is general guidance, not legal, financial or medical advice, and does not create a professional relationship. Funeral wishes are not legally binding on executors or next of kin, even if recorded in a will; they are a strong guide that families almost always seek to honour. Figures and thresholds reflect FY 2026-27 and may change — verify current rates at gov.uk. For the free walkthroughs, calculators, and related briefs referenced throughout, see valoren.uk. © Standard Index Group.