A FREE KIT FROM I MISS YOU MEMORIAL

When someone *passes*

The first ten days, handled.



A checklist for the first 48 hours. The calls, in order. The ten service decisions. What it usually costs, and your rights. A eulogy guide that actually works, three obituary templates, and a quiet page about taking care of yourself.

Yours to keep, print, and share with the family. No account needed.

THIS KIT

Ten quiet parts, twelve pages

Short lists, because nobody can hold a long one this week.

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How to use this kit

You do not have to read it in order. Open the page this day needs and let the rest wait.

Hand pages away. The eulogy page goes to whoever is speaking. The calls page goes to whoever is good on the phone. The costs page goes with whoever visits the funeral home.

The boxes are for checking. A checked box counts as a finished thing this week, and finished things help.

PART ONE

The first 48 hours

If they passed within the last day or two, this is the only page that matters yet.

- **If they were on hospice at home,** call the hospice nurse. The nurse comes, makes the official pronouncement, and tells you what happens next. That call is the whole first step.
- **If they passed at home unexpectedly,** call 911. The responders take it from there. This is the normal path, not an alarm.
- **In a hospital or care facility,** the staff handle the official steps and will ask which funeral home to call. "We have not chosen yet" is a complete answer. You may take hours to decide.
- **If donation was their wish,** organs or their body to science, say so as early as you can. Time matters for that wish, and the hospital or hospice knows exactly who to call.
- **Tell the people who must hear it from a person.** Split the list with someone. Two or three calls each is enough for tonight. Everyone else can wait a day.
- **Ask someone to stay,** or to keep their phone on beside the bed. The first night is not for being alone.
- **The practical house things.** Pets fed. Doors locked. Their medications gathered up and set out of reach. Anything perishable put away.
- **Nothing about the service has to be decided tonight.** The funeral home can wait until morning. Sleep is allowed, and it is the most useful thing on this list.

PART TWO

The first 72 hours

A short list, because nobody can hold a long one this week.

1 · The calls that cannot wait

The funeral home or crematory, and anyone who must hear it from a person, not a post. Split the list with one other family member. Everyone else can wait a day.

2 · Ask for the death certificates

Ask the funeral home for 10 to 15 certified copies. Banks, insurance, pensions, and accounts will each want their own, and ordering them later is slower.

3 · Choose one gatherer

Photos, dates, and stories will start arriving from everywhere. Pick one person, and one place for everything to land. A free tribute page works. A shared folder works too. The point is one place, chosen early.

4 · Let the big decisions keep

Do not make permanent decisions this week that can wait a month. Houses, belongings, and big promises keep. Anyone pressing for speed can be told the family is taking a month. That sentence ends most conversations kindly.

5 · Eat, and let people help

Sleep when you can. Let people bring food. Saying yes to help is a gift to them too. Everyone wants a job this week, and the ones you hand out are kindnesses in both directions.

PART THREE

Who to call, in order

The phone is the heaviest object in the house this week. Fill in the numbers once and hand this page to whoever is helping.

The first day

- [ ] **The funeral home or crematory** .....
- [ ] **The inner circle, split with someone** .....
- [ ] .....
- [ ] **Their employer, or whoever expects them this week** .....
- [ ] **Clergy, a celebrant, or whoever may lead the service** .....

The first week or two

- [ ] **Social Security · 1-800-772-1213** · the funeral home usually reports for you. Ask; it is one less call.
- [ ] **Life insurance** .....
- [ ] **Their bank or credit union** .....
- [ ] **Pension or retirement plans** .....
- [ ] **Health insurance or Medicare** .....
- [ ] **Landlord or mortgage company** .....
- [ ] **The post office, to forward mail** .....

While you are at the funeral home: ask for 10 to 15 certified death certificates. Nearly every call above will want one, and ordering them later is slower.

PART FOUR

Planning the service

Ten decisions, one page. Decide the first one and the rest line up behind it.

- **1 · The day, the time, the place.** Pick these first. Everything else hangs on them.
- **2 · Who leads it.** Clergy, a celebrant, or a family member who can hold a room.
- **3 · The shape of the hour.** A welcome, two or three voices, a reading or a song they loved, a closing. Simple holds up best.
- **4 · Who speaks.** Two or three people. Ask them today, so they have time to write.
- **5 · The music.** Three songs is enough. One to gather, one to remember, one to leave by.
- **6 · The photographs.** Twenty to forty, roughly in the order of their life. Ask every branch of the family to send their ten best to the gatherer.
- **7 · The program.** One sheet. Their name, the dates, the order of the hour, one photograph.
- **8 · The reception.** Where everyone goes after, and who is told at the door.
- **9 · The guest list problem.** You cannot call everyone. Put the day, time, and place somewhere one link can carry, and let the family forward it. A tribute page holds the service, the reception, and the lunch after, and everyone tells you whether they can come.
- **10 · The memories you will wish you had gathered.** At the service, people tell the best stories you have never heard, then they drive home and the stories go with them. A small card on the welcome table with a code to their tribute page means every story gets kept, not lost in the parking lot.



The program, in a few minutes

The free program maker builds one from their name, the dates, and one photograph. No account.

imissyoumemorial.com/tools/funeral-program-maker

PART FIVE

What this usually costs

Money is the conversation nobody wants this week, which is exactly why the numbers belong on paper. Clear numbers make kind decisions easier.

about $8,300	The national median for a funeral with a viewing and burial in recent industry surveys, before the cemetery plot and the headstone. With a burial vault it runs closer to $10,000.
about $6,300	The median for a funeral with a viewing and cremation.
$1,000 to $3,000	Direct cremation, with no services through the funeral home. A memorial can still be held anywhere, anytime, and many families do exactly that.

Prices vary widely by region. Treat these as orientation, not quotes, and ask for numbers in writing.

Your rights, by law

- A funeral home must give you an **itemized price list**, and prices over the phone if you ask. This is federal law, the FTC's Funeral Rule, in every state.
- You may choose **only the items you want**. Packages are optional, and declining one is ordinary.
- You may buy a **casket or urn anywhere**, and the funeral home must accept it without a fee.
- **Embalming is often not required**, especially with direct cremation or a prompt burial. Ask what your state actually requires before saying yes.

Help that exists

- Social Security pays an eligible surviving spouse or child a one-time **$255 payment**. Small, real, and worth the call.
- **Veterans** may qualify for burial benefits, a grave in a national cemetery, and a marker. The funeral home knows how to start the paperwork.



Plain math, before the meeting

Two free calculators, funeral costs and cremation costs, so you walk in knowing the ranges. No account.

imissyoumemorial.com/tools

PART SIX

Writing the eulogy

A eulogy is not a biography. It is one true story and three truths.

1 · Start with one story only you could tell

The smaller the better. The way they answered the phone. What they always ordered. The thing they said every single time. Small stories are where a person actually lives.

2 · Name three things that were true of them

Generous. Stubborn about the right things. Never missed a game. Let each one carry a one-line example, and the room will nod three times.

3 · Say one thing to them, not about them

One sentence, direct. This is the line people will remember, and the one you will be glad you said out loud.

4 · Read it out loud twice

Cut anything you stumble on. Five minutes is long enough. Nobody has ever wished a eulogy were longer.

5 · Bring a printed copy and a glass of water

If you cannot finish, hand the page to the person beside you. That is allowed, and it has been done in every church and hall in the world.

Three ways to begin, if the page stays blank

"My mother had a rule." Then the rule, then the story of her keeping it.

"If you knew him for five minutes, you knew two things." Then the two things, and everyone who knew him longer will smile.

"I want to tell you about one Tuesday." One ordinary day, told slowly, says more than the whole résumé.

PART SEVEN

Three obituary templates

Fill in, adjust, and use freely. The words in brackets are yours to replace.

TEMPLATE 1 · Traditional

For the paper, the program, or the funeral home's site.

[*Full name*], [*age*], of [*town*], passed away on [*date*] at [*place*]. [*He/She/They*] was born on [*date*] in [*town*] to [*parents*]. [*Name*] [*career or life's work, in one sentence*]. [*He/She/They*] married [*spouse*] in [*year*], and together they [*one sentence*]. [*Name*] is survived by [*list*]; and was preceded in passing by [*list*]. Services will be held at [*place*] on [*date*] at [*time*]. In lieu of flowers, the family asks [*request*].

TEMPLATE 2 · The storyteller

For the page, the program, or reading aloud.

[*First name*] never [*small true thing: missed a Sunday dinner, let a dog pass without a word, lost an argument about baseball*]. Born [*date*] in [*town*], [*he/she/they*] spent [*number*] years [*what they gave their life to*], but the people who loved [*him/her/them*] will remember [*the small thing*] first. [*One short story, three sentences.*] [*He/She/They*] leaves [*list*], each of whom knows exactly what [*he/she/they*] would say right now. The family gathers at [*place*], [*date*], [*time*]. Bring a story.

TEMPLATE 3 · Short, for the paper

When space is counted by the word.

[*Full name*], [*age*], of [*town*], died [*date*]. [*One sentence of who they were.*] Survived by [*short list*]. Services [*date*], [*time*], [*place*]. Memories and photographs may be shared with the family at [*tribute page link*].

A warm first draft, from a few questions

The free obituary writer drafts one in their honor, in plain words, ready to edit. No account.

imissyoumemorial.com/tools/obituary-writer

PART EIGHT

Taking care of yourself

What bereavement programs tell families in the first month, written down so it keeps.

Grief lives in the body

Sleep breaks. Appetite disappears. Concentration goes thin, and names and dates slip. In the early weeks this is ordinary grief, not a failing, and it eases as the weeks pass.

It comes in waves, not stages

A calm morning does not mean you are done, and a hard one does not mean you are back at the start. The waves arrive on their own schedule, and nobody is grading this.

The daily five, this month

- [ ] Water
- [ ] One real meal
- [ ] Outside, once
- [ ] Sleep when it comes
- [ ] One yes to help

Put company next to the firsts

The first holiday, their birthday, the first anniversary. Put one person's name next to each of those dates now, while everyone is still asking what they can do.

More help is normal to need

Many hospice programs offer bereavement support to anyone in their community, usually free, often for a year or more, whether or not they cared for your person. A call to a nearby hospice is a quiet, good first step. Your doctor is another, especially if grief makes working, eating, or getting out of bed impossible for a long stretch.

And if a day feels heavier than grief should be

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline answers calls and texts at 988, every hour of every day. Saying things out loud to a steady stranger helps more than it sounds like it would.

PART NINE

Questions people are afraid to ask

Asked quietly, in every family, every week. Here are the honest answers.

"Is it wrong that I feel relieved?"

No. After a long illness, relief and love arrive together, and one does not cancel the other. Grief counselors hear this more than almost anything else, and they hear it from the people who loved hardest.

"Do we have to embalm?"

Usually not. No federal law requires it, and with refrigeration or a prompt burial or cremation it is often unnecessary. Ask the funeral home what your state actually requires before saying yes to it.

"Is it cheap to say no to the package?"

No. Choosing only what you want is allowed by law, funeral directors hear it every day, and a smaller bill is not a smaller love. Nobody at the service will know what the casket cost. They will remember who spoke.

"What do we do about their phone?"

Keep it charged and on for now if you can. The photos, the contact list, and the codes other accounts send all live there. The rest of their online life can wait months. Almost nothing on the internet is urgent this week.

"Do we have to hold the service right away?"

No. A memorial keeps. Especially with cremation, families often gather weeks or even months later, which gives far-away people time to travel and close people time to breathe.

"What if I cannot cry, or cannot stop?"

Both are grief. How it shows on the outside is no measure of what was felt, and nobody gets to referee it. The person two pews over sobbing and the one staring straight ahead are carrying the same thing.

PART TEN

One place for all of it

Everything in this kit lands somewhere. The photographs, the program, the day and the time, the stories people bring to the service. A tribute page holds all of it, free.

- Their story, the timeline, and the family tree
- The service, with everyone saying whether they can come
- Up to 12 photographs and 10 memories, free
- Every memory waits for your approval before it appears



It takes a few minutes to start, and it stays online forever. That is our promise: every tribute is backed up and funded to stay online for generations, and your photos and words are always yours to export.

And if this kit helped, keep it somewhere findable. Someone in your circle will need it someday, and being the friend who has it ready is its own kind of gift.

Start their page, free

No card needed, and it stays. Begin with their name and one photograph; the rest can arrive as the family sends it.
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