

## Planning a Memorial Service

As your loved one's life draws to an end, decisions must be made about arrangements for after the death. We encourage your family and your loved one to talk over these matters before life ends. Though this may seem difficult, planning a memorial service or funeral with your dying loved one's involvement can actually bring him or her comfort. There may be a special way he or she wants to be remembered. When death comes, knowing that you have fulfilled your loved one's wishes can bring you peace as well.

Your funeral home staff, your spiritual leader and/or your HospiceCare chaplain can all assist you with these decisions and arrangements. Some things you may want to consider are:

- Songs, hymns, poems or readings that will celebrate the life of your loved one.
- Where you would like to have the service: your church, the funeral home, the cemetery, a park, or another family member's home.
- When you would like to hold the service. Some families have the service 3-5 days after the death while others choose a later time when family members and friends can attend.
- Who you would like to lead the service: a church leader, your HospiceCare chaplain, a friend or a family member.
- Cremation vs. burial. The costs will vary from one mortuary to another, but cremation is generally less costly than burial. Mortuaries will provide you with cost information. (Please note: Patients with Medicaid coverage can expect the Department of Human Services to contribute to burial or cremation costs. The family must complete an application with the Department of Human Services to request financial assistance.)

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