

Creating Your “Death Wishes” Document

Talking about your own death isn't exactly a fun thing to do, but making your wishes known is actually a huge gift to the people you love.

1. Important Personal Information

- Full legal name
- Date of birth/birthplace
- Important family members/relatives and contact information
- Where to find your will
- Where to find important financial documents
- Life insurance information
- Important passwords/account information
- Social media accounts and whether you want them deleted or preserved

2. What Should Happen to Your Body

- Burial or cremation?
- Organ donation?
- Donate your body/organs to research?
- If you don't care, say that explicitly: *“Whatever is easiest/cheapest for my family.”*
- Any other specific wishes for your remains

3. Your Funeral or Memorial Service

- Do you want a funeral/memorial service?
- What overall feeling do you want the service to have?
- Where should it take place?
- Religious or nonreligious?
- Any specific scriptures/readings
- Hymns or songs you want played
- Flowers or no flowers? If flowers, what kind?
- Which charities or causes would you like supported?
- Any unusual or very specific requests?

4. Celebration of Life

- Is there an after-party and what should it look like?
- Is there a particular activity everyone should do in your honor?
- What should people eat/drink in your honor?
- What overall feeling do you want the after-party to have?

6. Your Obituary

- Do you want to write your own obituary?
- What accomplishments should be included?
- What organizations/charities were important to you?
- What do you want people to remember most?
- What absolutely should **not** be said about you?
- Do you want it completely sincere or is some roasting encouraged?

7. Photos of You

- Do you have a favorite photo for your obituary?
- Where can people find good photos of you?
 - Baby/childhood photos
 - Young-adult photos
 - Family photos

8. What You Want to Leave Behind

- Do you have a piece of advice to leave behind?
- What do you want your family to remember about you?
- Should you write a handwritten message to the people you love?