



CIVIL CELEBRANT

FUNERAL, MEMORIAL SERVICE AND ASH SCATTERING

Hi, my name is Megan Summers and it is with great honour that I offer you my services.

Please accept my sincere condolences for your loss, it is with great sadness that we say good-bye to the ones we love. To honour the life of our loved one is to also honour our part in it as their family, closest friends and community.

When you are planning the ceremony you will need to consider how you would like the ceremony to proceed. A Funeral, Memorial Service or Ash Scattering will often include life stories, poems, songs and rituals that are meaningful to you and to the memory of the one you loved.

To help you plan, I have included five poems, three songs and two rituals as examples for you to consider on the pages that follow. You may wish to include some of these, none of these, or include your own.

The ceremony can be as detailed or simple as you would like to make it.

If you have any questions or are unsure about anything please don't hesitate to contact me.

I am here to help in any way I can you make this occasion a memorable one.

Xx Megan

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Megan Summers ~ Certified Celebrant ~ Mobile ~ Email ~ Facebook



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CEREMONY STRUCTURE

ANNOUNCEMENT

The beginning of the ceremony will be announced . Everyone will be directed to take their seats and asked to turn off their mobile phones.

INTRODUCTION

A song may be played or a poem or quote read. All guests will be welcomed and I will then introduce myself as your celebrant.

READINGS

Stories, poems, literature or memories you would like to share can be read.

EULOGY

In honour of your loved one I will give a speech in their memory.

TRIBUTES — FROM FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Each person will share some memories about the life of their family member or friend.

RITUAL

A ritual could be placed here. Rituals can add depth and meaning to your ceremony.

REFLECTION

Often a slide show or a photo is shown here as a tribute to the whole life of a person.

COMMITTAL

If you choose to have a funeral, the coffin is lowered with either silent reflection or prayer.

FINAL TRIBUTE

Here we place the most special song or piece of music.

CONCLUSION

The ceremony can conclude with words of gratitude for attendance and guests directed.



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MUSIC, POETRY & LITERATURE

These can express our thoughts and sentiments beautifully and say very creatively what we would like to. Here are a few poems for you to read and consider.

YOU'VE JUST WALKED ON AHEAD OF ME

~UNKNOWN~

And I've got to understand
You must release the ones you love
And let go of their hand.
I try and cope the best I can
But I'm missing you so much
If I could only see you
And once more feel your touch.
Yes, you've just walked on ahead of me
Don't worry I'll be fine
But now and then I swear I feel
Your hand slip into mine.

FROM THE EXCURSION

~WILLIAM WORDSWORTH~

And when the stream that overflows has passed,
A consciousness remains upon the silent shore
of memory;
Images and precious thoughts that shall not be
And cannot be destroyed.

ON DEATH

~KAHLIL GIBRAN~

"...You would know the secret of death.
But how shall you find it unless you seek it in
the heart of life?
The owl whose night-bound eyes are blind
unto the day cannot
unveil the mystery of light.
If you would indeed behold the spirit of
death,
open your heart wide unto the body of life.
For life and death are one, even as the river
and the sea are one.
In the depth of your hopes and desires
lies your silent knowledge of the beyond;
And like seeds dreaming beneath the snow,
your heart dreams of spring.

Trust the dreams, for in them is hidden the
gate to eternity...

For what is it to die but to stand naked in the
wind and to melt into the sun?
And what is it to cease breathing, but to free
the breath from its restless tides,
that it may rise and expand and seek God
unencumbered?

Only when you drink from the river of silence
shall you indeed sing.
And when you have reached the mountain
top, then you shall begin to climb.
And when the earth shall claim your limbs,
then shall you truly dance..."

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A SONG OF LIVING

~AMELIA JOSEPHINE BURR~

Because I have loved life, I shall have no sorrow to die.
I have sent up my gladness on wings, to be lost in the blue of the sky.
I have run and leaped with the rain, I have taken the wind to my breast.
My cheeks like a drowsy child to the face of the earth I have pressed.
Because I have loved life, I shall have no sorrow to die.

I have kissed young love on the lips, I have heard his song to the end,
I have struck my hand like a seal in the loyal hand of a friend.
I have known the peace of heaven, the comfort of work done well.
I have longed for death in the darkness and risen alive out of hell.
Because I have loved life, I shall have no sorrow to die.

I gave a share of my soul to the world, when and where my course is run.
I know that another shall finish the task I surely must leave undone.
I know that no flower, nor flint was in vain on the path I trod.
As one looks on a face through a window, through life I have looked on God,
Because I have loved life, I shall have no sorrow to die.

MEMORIES OF THE HEART

~UNKNOWN~

Feel no guilt in laughter,
He knows how much you care.
Feel no sorrow in a smile
That he's not here to share.

You cannot grieve forever,
He would not want you to.
He'd hope that you would carry on
The way you always do.

So talk about the good times
And the ways you showed you cared.
The days you spent together,
All the happiness you shared.

Let the memories surround you,
A word someone may say
Will suddenly recapture
A time, an hour, a day.

That brings him back as clearly
As though he were still here,
And fills you with the feelings
That he is always near.

For if you keep those memories
You will never be apart
And he will live forever
Locked safe within your heart.



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RITUAL

As people we need to grieve the loss of those we have shared intimate connections with. Those dearest to us in some way are a part of us and it is no small thing to say good-bye.

Through out the ages cultures have used ritual as a way, not only to express their sorrow, but also their joy, the joy of living and the time spent together. Ritual is a way of celebrating life and sharing in the memory of your loved one together.

Rituals can be subtle or elaborate, but remember size is by no means a reflection of the depth of meaning. What you choose is a tribute to the life you are honouring.

They can include:

Offering of a Flower or Sprig of Rosemary; Candle Lighting; Tree Planting, Doves or Butterflies. Bellow are a couple of examples:

CANDLE LIGHTING

As a ritual this is a very simple but meaningful one. After sunset each person will carry a candle as a remembrance of the deceased to either a significant location or to place around a memorable item, such as a photo. Each person in their own time can place the candle and take a moment to say good-bye.

PLANTING A TREE

This is a beautiful gesture. To honour your loved one by planting of a tree. Trees symbolise life, and as such, the life of your loved one. A memorial of the most precious kind, for as the tree grows and blossoms, with it your memories will also blossom. To give life is to look to the future and embrace all that life is, for while it looks to have taken something very special from you, in knowing this person, it has given you so much more. The style of ritual you choose is very personal and there are many possibilities, however, in some cases permission may need to be granted from the local authorities.

If you have something different in mind, please speak to me so we can discuss it further.



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FINAL NOTE

It is of the utmost importance that you keep me up to date with the format you wish to have in place at your ceremony. It is essential that you communicate any changes you would like to make to the ceremony.

I will do everything in my power to make this day the most perfect day.

Please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for considering me as your Celebrant.

MEGAN SUMMERS

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