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# DAVIS-STRUEMPf

FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY

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## FUNERAL AND CREMATION PLANNING GUIDE



(770) 944-2900    [www.davisstruempf.com](http://www.davisstruempf.com)  
[davisstruempf@gmail.com](mailto:davisstruempf@gmail.com)

1975 East-West Connector, Austell, GA 30106



# Preserving a Loved One's Wishes

## Experienced Probate Guidance in Georgia

When someone you love passes away, grief is only part of the journey. Families are often unexpectedly faced with legal responsibilities - including the probate process.

At Georgia Probate Law Group, we focus exclusively on Georgia probate law. Our role is to guide families through court procedures with clarity, efficiency, and compassion.

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### Probate Services Include:

- Filing petitions to open probate
- Executor and administrator appointments
- Will validation
- Estate administration guidance
- Handling creditor notices and deadlines
- Court representation when required



*Probate is not just paperwork - it is the legal process of honoring a loved one's final wishes. Let experienced professionals help you move forward with confidence.*

Georgia Probate Law Group

Serving Families Throughout Georgia



[www.georgiaprobatefirm.com](http://www.georgiaprobatefirm.com)



(770) 284 8791






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# DAVIS-STRUEMPf

## FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY

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### *The Tradition of Celebrating Life*

We invite you to discover who has made Davis-Struempf Funeral Home the ultimate provider of creating healing experiences in the community.

*“ Our goal is to provide excellence in service and compassion during this difficult time of loss. Our experienced and dedicated staff can aid you in planning a service suited to your family’s needs. We are committed to arranging a funeral that is most befitting to your loved one, and we strive to celebrate their life in a meaningful way.”*

*The Staff at Davis-Struempf Funeral Home*

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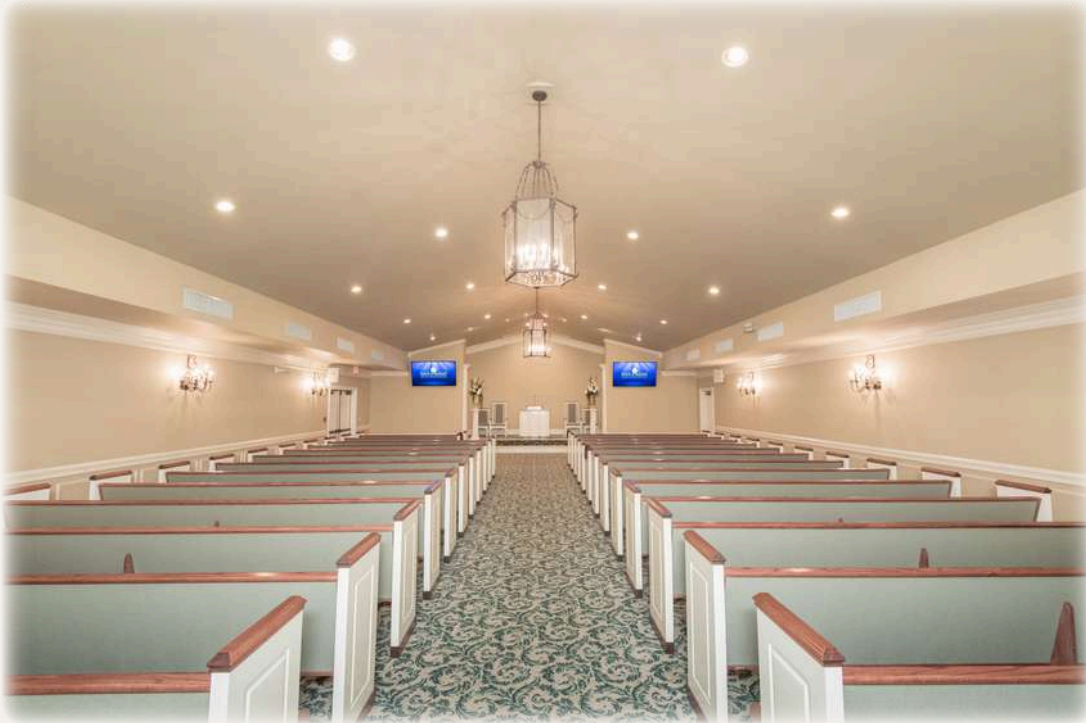


## *Why Choose Us?*

Families choose our funeral home because, in their most difficult moments, they deserve care that is both deeply compassionate and professional.

Our caring staff takes the time to listen, guide, and support every family with genuine empathy, where no detail is too small. From personalized services to our beautiful facility, we create a peaceful environment that honors the lives of loved ones we serve. Our commitment to excellence is reflected in our consistent 5-star reviews, shared by families who felt truly cared for. With years of expertise and a dedication to thoughtful service, we provide comfort, clarity, and confidence when it matters most. We are still family-owned and operated, three generations strong.

# Planning a Funeral or Memorial



Most of us are not prepared to plan and carry out a funeral or memorial service for someone we love. Much of the information available on this critically important subject fails to focus on what is most important: having a personalized, meaningful service that helps families and friends begin the healing process of mourning the life of our loved one.

The dedicated staff of Davis-Struempf Funeral Home wants to help you plan the service your loved one deserves. Our licensed funeral directors are intimately familiar with the funeral planning process, key decisions a grieving family must make, and the necessary legal documentation that is required during this difficult time. Our funeral professionals can handle all the details to help you create a unique service befitting of your needs and values.

Meaningful funeral or memorial services make a significant difference in how families channel their grief. During the service, the community comes together and responds to the reality that someone has died and that those remaining will need support, compassion, love, hope, and understanding in the days to follow. The funeral or memorial service encourages you to think about the person who has died and to explore the meaning of their life and how they touched others' lives.

The remembering, reflecting, and choices that take place in planning and conducting a service are an important part of grief and mourning. Ultimately, this process of contemplation and discovery creates a memorable and moving experience for all who attend.

# Why Pre-Plan?

## *The Advantages of Planning Ahead*

The idea behind planning ahead is simple. One day, a great deal of vital information about you or a loved one will be needed by your family and anyone whose responsibility it is to assist them. Those who plan ahead can be assured that not only will their personal wishes be fulfilled, but other unnecessary difficulties will be avoided.

Both you and your loved ones can benefit when end-of-life arrangements are made in advance. It can be beneficial to include your immediate family in those plans, ensuring that those left behind are aware of your wishes. By discussing plans in advance, you can take all the time you need to make decisions on cremation or burial, the type of ceremony, and other service elements.

### Advantages

- **Peace of Mind:** Pre-planning takes the burden of making important decisions off your loved ones during a difficult time.
- **Financial Assurance:** Pre-paying for your services through Davis-Struempf Funeral Home guarantees the contract and spares your family the cost of inflation associated with final expenses.
- **Longevity:** Pre-planning your services will make certain that your choices are respected and carried out, without leaving your family to wonder what your wishes might have been.

***Here are some tips that may help you start the advanced planning conversation with your loved ones:***

Set a time to have the conversation. Schedule it as an appointment with your loved ones, whether you want to share your plans with them or ask them to make their plans to share with you.

Tell your parent or loved one that you want to ensure their final arrangements are done according to their wishes, and you need their help to make that happen.

Ease into the conversation. Questions such as “Have you ever thought about where you would like to be buried?” or “What type of service would you like to have?” may open the discussion to more details about your loved one’s wishes.

Take advantage of funeral-related opportunities. Attending the funeral of a friend, family member, or colleague, or watching a movie or television show with funeral scenes, may naturally prompt a discussion with your loved ones. Talk about what you liked or disliked about the services you saw or attended.

*We have provided space in the back of this guide to detail necessary vital statistics, wishes, phone numbers, and other relevant information for planning a service.*



# Life Insurance

Life insurance will pay a fixed amount based on the policy. Generally, the face amount of the policy may not match the amount for services, merchandise, and cemetery costs.

Unless there is a pre-need contract in place that is guaranteed, actual costs at the time of need may be higher than the policy amount. The discrepancy in amounts would fall to the survivors to fund.

Funeral insurance can be purchased in the exact amount it would take to pay for your selected services. When you choose to pre-fund your final arrangements, your money is put in a state-approved trust account or top-rated insurance company until required.

Another point we'd like to stress: When you pre-plan with Davis-Struempf Funeral Home, your plan will go where you go. No matter where you reside at the time of your passing, no matter what funeral home you choose to work with, your plan will be transferable to any funeral home in the United States.

# Types of Services



## Burial or Cremation

When considering final arrangements for yourself or a loved one, one of the first decisions you might make is whether you prefer burial or cremation of your/their remains. This decision influences other important considerations, such as elements of the service or need for cemetery property.

## Memorial Service

A memorial service is a service designed to memorialize and honor a person without their body present. If the family chooses to bury or cremate before the service, it is considered a memorial service.

## Funeral Service

A ceremony that takes place prior to burial or cremation. Your faith or culture may dictate some elements of a funeral service, and you may want to personalize other elements of the service. At a funeral service, a casket is present, which holds you or your loved one's physical remains.

## Visitation, Wake, or Viewing

Held either the night before or immediately prior to the service, a visitation - also called a wake or viewing - provides a way for friends and acquaintances to pay their respects to either casketed remains, an urn, or a memorial photo, and to offer condolences to your family. You may choose to have the casket open or closed, an urn present or not, or to have a memorial photo as the centerpiece of the visitation.

## Graveside Service

As its name suggests, a graveside service takes place at the cemetery and occurs just before the burial of a casket or urn. A graveside service can follow the funeral service, or it can be its own stand-alone service.

## Cemetery Property

In addition to funeral services and the choice of burial or cremation, cemetery property, or "interment rights," is another consideration when you're making final arrangements.



# Types of Services cont'd

## Types of Burial

Most people are familiar with the types of burial, or “interment”, but may not be aware of the variety of options available. Many cemeteries offer one or more of the following:

- **Ground Burial:** Burial of the casket below ground. Most cemeteries require a “vault” or “outer burial container” which encases the casket or urn
- **Mausoleum:** A large building that provides above-ground entombments
- **Private Family Mausoleum:** A small structure that provides entombment for family groups, often two to twelve entombments.
- **Companion Crypt:** Two interments or entombments side-by-side.
- **Private Family Estate:** A small section of a cemetery, usually bordered by gates or other dividers, that allows for the ground burial of several family members.



A single grave in a veterans cemetery



An interior mausoleum



A private family mausoleum

# Types of Services cont'd

## What is cremation?

Cremation is the process of reducing the body to bone fragments by applying intense heat for a period of two to three hours. The cremated remains are then removed from the cremation chamber. They are processed into finer fragments and placed in a family-selected urn or temporary container. Cremated remains usually weigh about three to eight pounds.

- If you choose cremation for your loved one, you can still have a service.
- You have numerous options for the final resting place.
- You can place the cremated remains, also called *cremains*, in a special urn to display at home.
- You can bury an urn in a cemetery or entomb it in a columbarium, providing a permanent resting place where friends and family can visit
- You can place a portion of cremains in an urn, and the remaining portion can be scattered, buried, placed in a columbarium, or can reside with another family member.
- You can scatter the cremains.

## Cremation Authorization

Cremation cannot occur until there is a signed Cremation Authorization by the next of kin(s). The State of Georgia requires that the Cremation Authorization be signed by a majority of the legal next of kin, or by a person that holds a Durable Power of Attorney over the decedent which contains a "Disposition Clause", or designated agent on a Georgia Advance Directive.

## Can you still have a viewing?

Cremation does not limit the type of funeral service that may be chosen. The same options that apply to earth burial are available with cremation. Some families may choose to have a public visitation with their loved one in a casket prior to the cremation process. Others may choose to have the cremation take place first, and follow with a memorial service.

We also make available the opportunity to view your loved one privately before cremation. This time, called a private viewing, is open to immediate family only and would not include embalming. Also, should the family wish it, we offer the option to view the cremation at our in-house crematory.

# Preserving a Loved One's Wishes: Understanding Georgia Probate

When someone you love passes away, the world can feel like it's split into two realities. In one, there is grief - quiet, heavy, personal. In the other, there are decisions that still have to be made: paperwork, accounts, property, and the many small details that make up a life.

Families are often surprised to learn that even after the funeral is planned, there may still be an important legal process ahead: probate.

(This information is intended for general educational purposes and is not legal advice. Every estate is different, and families may benefit from guidance specific to their situation.)

## What Is Probate?

Probate is the legal process of settling a deceased person's estate. In plain terms, it's how Georgia courts help ensure that:

- The correct person is appointed to handle the estate
- Debts and taxes are handled properly
- Remaining assets are distributed correctly to heirs or beneficiaries

If your loved one left a will, probate is often the process of validating that will and authorizing someone (usually called an "executor") to carry out its instructions.

If your loved one did not leave a will, the estate is handled under Georgia's laws of inheritance. In that case, the court typically appoints an "administrator".

*Probate exists for a reason: it creates structure at a time when emotions are understandably high. It also helps prevent fraud, confusion, and disputes.*

## What Families Often Don't Realize About Probate

You may not be able to access accounts immediately, even if you are the spouse or adult child.

Financial institutions often require legal documentation before releasing funds.

*A will does not avoid probate. A will guides probate - it does not eliminate it.*

Probate is about legal authority. A key part of the process is giving someone the legal power to act on behalf of the estate. Without that authority, many tasks can't move forward. That is why working towards having an executor or administrator appointed over the estate is so important.

Every estate is unique. Two families can go through probate in the same county and have completely different experiences depending on assets, debts, and family structure.

## The Emotional Side of Probate

Probate can feel like reopening a wound every time you see your loved one's name on a document, every time you sign something that makes their death feel "official," every time you make decisions that they once handled.

It can also stir up family emotions. This is why it is so important to approach probate gently both emotionally and practically. You are not only settling an estate. You are carrying someone's life forward in a responsible way.

## Preserving a Loved One's Wishes

When someone has taken the time to create a will, they were doing something deeply loving: they were trying to spare their family uncertainty.

Probate is one way Georgia honors that effort. It gives the court a role in confirming that the will is legitimate and that the estate is administered properly. And when there is no will, probate still provides structure, ensuring that assets are handled fairly and lawfully.

## When Professional Support Can Make a Difference

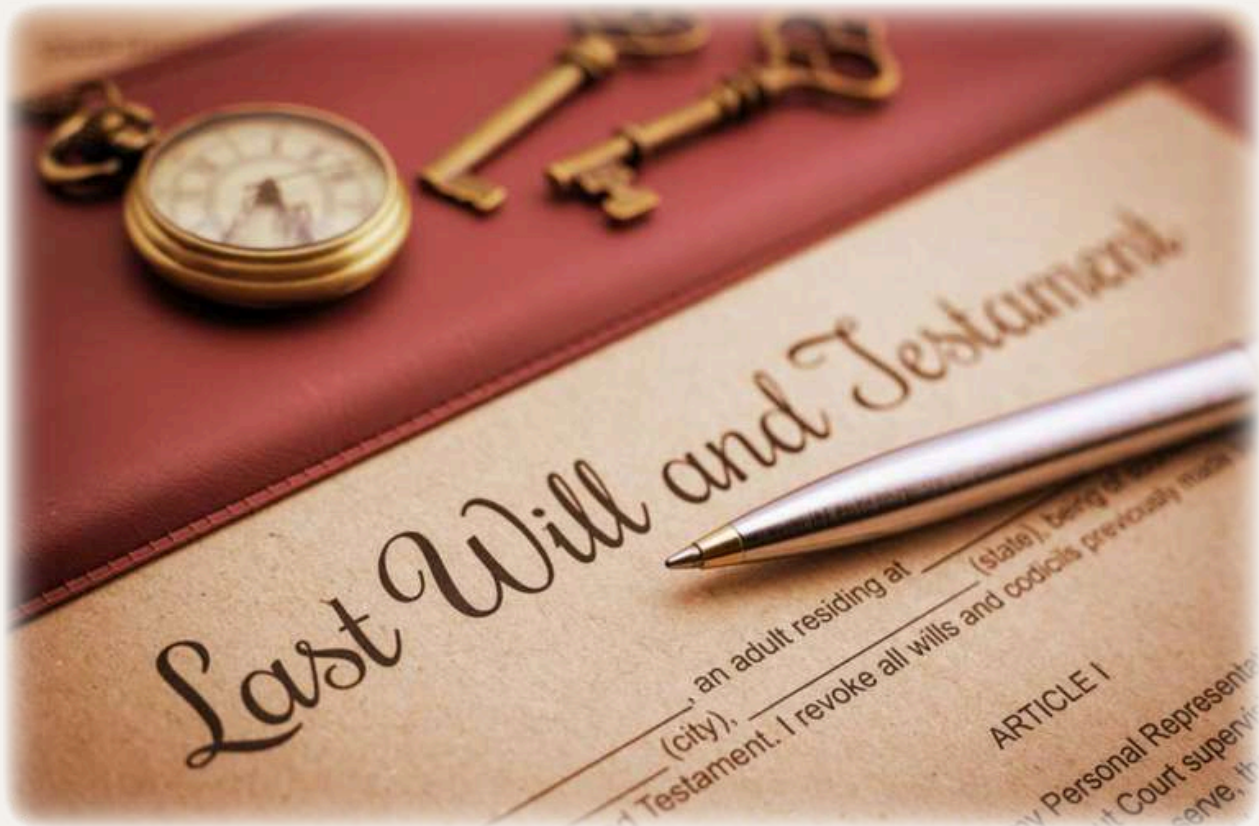
Because Georgia probate involves legal requirements, deadlines, notices, and formal court procedures, families often find that having experienced help can make the process smoother and less stressful.

One missed step can cause delays, added costs, or unnecessary frustration. Whether the estate is simple or complex, having a knowledgeable probate attorney can provide peace of mind, allowing families to focus on healing rather than worrying about every document and detail.

## A Final Word for Families

If you are walking through the loss of someone you love, please know this: it is normal to feel overwhelmed. It is normal to feel tired of paperwork. It is normal to wish there were fewer steps. Probate is not a measure of love. It is simply the process of responsibly honoring a life ensuring that a person's wishes, property, and legacy are handled with care. Take things one step at a time. Ask questions when you need to. Lean on trusted professionals.

And above all, give yourself grace. You are doing something difficult, in one of the hardest seasons a family can face.



## You Should Have A Will

Everyone should be safeguarded by a properly drawn and executed will. Without a will, state laws and the courts will decide how your assets are to be treated. The absence of a will deprives you of making decisions about how *you* want these important issues resolved.

The preparation of a will is not a one-time event. A will should be reviewed every few years in the context of changing family status, obligations, tax laws, and personal wishes.

Upon death, your will must be probated in court. The court must approve of an executor/executrix, and an estate inventory must be prepared and filed. Taxes and debts must be recognized. Often, the services of an attorney and/or accountant must be utilized.

We recommend you seek reliable, professional assistance in the preparation of your will; that you update it regularly as circumstances dictate; and that you carefully consider your selection for executor of your estate. These issues are of vital importance for the protection of your estate – and most importantly – for the protection of those left behind.

Date of Will: .....

Location of Will:.....

b|p

blake.  
properties

**Real Estate with Heart**  
Personal Attention is Not Extra  
**-It is Everything-**

Kortney G. Struempf  
404-784-4283  
kortneyg88@yahoo.com

# Memorialization Options



Your loved one's fingerprints are unique to them and represent the hands that cared for and loved you. At Davis-Struempf Funeral Home, we can take digital prints of every person that comes into our care.

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Transform Memories  
Into Stones You Can Hold

Parting Stone's solidification process creates beautiful stones from your loved one's remains—bringing them closer to your heart and your daily life.



# Memorialization Options



## Pressed Floral

Created from memorial flowers or meaningful arrangements, these custom pieces offer lasting comfort and remembrance.

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## SecuriGene

SecuriGene is a leader in DNA testing services, utilizing the latest technology and state-of-the-art facilities. Families can choose DNA banking, relationship tests, and/or health tests.



# Veteran's Information

Individuals who have answered our nation's call to service epitomize American ideals. Their devotion to our nation and its citizens deserves our greatest respect and utmost care. Davis-Struempf Funeral Home would like to thank you for your service to our country.

## Veteran's Benefits

Our staff is proud to be able to help military families through:

- Filing applications for a burial flag, military honors requests, Presidential Memorial Certificates, veteran memorial marker forms, and when eligible, burial benefits
- Coordinating and planning services that include military honors from the veteran-specific branch
- Coordinating with state or national cemeteries

All veterans with a discharge other than "dishonorable" are eligible to be buried in a national cemetery. Your survivors may also be eligible for other burial benefits in the form of a plot allowance if not buried in a national cemetery, a funeral or burial allowance, or transportation reimbursement.



## To Apply For Benefits:

Our staff is happy to assist in applying for burial benefits. You may also contact the Atlanta VA Regional Office at (800) 827-1000. You will need to provide:

- A copy of the Enlisted Record and/or Record of Separation (DD-214)
- A certified copy of the death certificate
- Receipted bills showing that you made payment, OR
- A statement of account, preferably on a printed letterhead from the funeral home or cemetery.

The surviving spouse and dependent children of veterans receiving disability payments may also be entitled to monthly payments. Please check with the regional office for eligibility.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **What type of service should I have?**

Only you can answer that question. The type of service conducted for the deceased, if not noted in a pre-plan, is decided by the family. The service is usually held at a place of worship or at the funeral home, but other locations are also used. The service may vary in ritual according to religious denomination or the wishes of the family. The presence of friends at this time is an acknowledgement of friendship and support. A private service is by invitation only, where selected relatives and a few close friends attend the funeral service. A memorial service is usually a service without the body present and can vary in ceremony and procedures according to the family's community and religious affiliation.

## **What is the purpose of embalming?**

Embalming sanitizes and preserves the body, slows the decomposition process, and enhances the appearance of a body disfigured by illness or traumatic death. It makes it possible to lengthen the time between death and the final disposition, thus allowing family members time to arrange and participate in the type of service most comforting to them. Embalming the body allows mourners to view the deceased if they wish.

## **Is embalming required by law?**

No, but certain factors like time, health, and legal requirements might make it necessary. Ask your funeral director to explain which situations would require embalming.

## **Why should we have a public viewing?**

There are multiple reasons to view the deceased. It is a part of many cultural and ethnic traditions, and many grief specialists believe that viewing aids the grief process by helping the bereaved recognize the reality of death. Viewing is even encouraged for children, as long as it is their desire to do so and if the process is explained well.

## **Why do we need an obituary notice?**

It is helpful to friends and the community to have an obituary notice published announcing the death and the type of service to be held. A notice can be placed in a local newspaper, on the internet, and/or on our website.

## **Can I personalize my service?**

Absolutely! In fact, we recommend it. After all, the funeral is a celebration of life. Our funeral directors are happy to discuss all options and ensure your funeral is tailored to your wishes. It may be personalized in many unique ways.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **What should I do if the death occurs in the middle of the night or on the weekend?**

We are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. All you need to do is place a call to us at (770) 944-2900. If you request immediate assistance, one of our professionals will be there as soon as possible. The family may wish to spend a short time with the deceased to say goodbye. If this is the case, we will come when your time is right.

## **What should I do if a death occurs while away from home?**

Our funeral directors can assist you if a death occurs anywhere on the globe. Contact your hometown funeral director of choice or us immediately. We will assume responsibility and coordinate the arrangements for the return of the deceased person to their community. We may engage the services of a funeral home in the place of death that will assist in the transfer of your loved one to our care.



# To My Loved Ones

I wanted to spare you as much anxiety, doubt, and confusion as possible at the time of death, so in this booklet, I have suggested some arrangements in advance.

This booklet includes vital statistics, funeral service guidelines, and cemetery requests, all of which are important to the funeral director assisting you with my service

I've also included some personal material for eulogies, obituaries, and other remembrances.

Please accept these arrangements in the spirit in which they are given; with love and a hope that they bring you comfort and peace of mind.

## Funeral Home Information

Davis - Struempf Funeral Home & Crematory  
1975 East-West Connector, Austell, GA 30106

(770) 944-2900

davisstruempf@gmail.com

### Notes:

# Vital Statistics

**Full Legal Name:** .....

**Name As You Want It Listed:**.....

**Street Address:**.....

**City:**..... **Within city limits?** Yes / No

**State:**.....**Zip Code:**.....

**Social Security Number:**.....

**Date of Birth:**.....

**Gender:**.....**Race/Ethnicity:**.....

**Place of Birth:**.....

**Occupation:**.....

**Type of Business:**..... **Retired?** Yes / No

**Employer (if applicable):**.....

**Martial Status:**.....

**Full Name of Spouse (maiden):**.....

**Military Service:** Yes / No **Branch:**.....

**Father's Full Name:**.....

**Mother's Full Maiden Name:**.....

**Highest Education:**.....

# My Preferences For The Service

Davis-Struempf Funeral Home Chapel

Place of Worship:.....

Other Location:.....

Clergy or Officiant:..... Or  Funeral Home to Recommend

Contact Information:.....

## Personal Items:

Eyeglasses:     Remove             Leave On

Jewelry:         Remove             Leave On

Other:.....

Clothing Preferences:.....

Service Music Preferences (song, artist, live music, etc.):.....

.....

## Pallbearers (if applicable, six recommended):

1..... 3..... 5.....

2..... 4..... 6.....

Honorary Pallbearers (optional):.....

Organizations or Clubs to participate:.....

.....

# Information For Obituary - A Guideline

**Spouse, Widow or Widower of:**.....

**Married for (number of years):**.....

**Children, their spouses, and their places of residence:**.....

.....

.....

**Number of grandchildren:**.....

.....

.....

**Siblings, their spouses, and their places of residence:**.....

.....

.....

**Education:**.....

**Clubs/Organizations:**.....

**Military Service:**.....

**Special Interests/Hobbies:**.....

.....

**Memorial Donations to:** .....

# Final Resting Place

**Wishes for Final Resting Place:**

Earth Burial of Casket       Mausoleum       Scattering of Ashes

Earth Burial of Urn       Niche for Urn       Urn at Home

Other:.....

Property, Niche, of Crypt owned?       Yes       No

Name of Cemetery:.....

Address:.....

If yes, specify location and whether any other items were pre-purchased (vault, marker, opening/closing of the grave):.....

.....

# Reception

Would you like your family to have a reception following the service?       Yes       No

**Reception Location:**

Funeral Home Reception Room       Place of Worship       Event Center

Reception Address:.....

Notes:.....

.....

# Documents and Personal Papers

## Bank Accounts

Name of Bank:.....

Address: .....

Name of Bank:.....

Address: .....

## Doctor's Details

Name of Doctor:.....

Address:.....

## Lawyer's Details

Name of Lawyer:.....

Address:.....

## Safety Deposit Box

Location of Box:.....

Location of Keys:.....

## Location of Important Papers

Birth Certificate:.....

Marriage License:.....

Last Will and Testament:.....

Deeds and Titles:.....

Mortgages and Notes:.....

Insurance Policies:.....

Military Discharge:.....

Income Tax Records:.....

Stocks and Bonds:.....

Other Important Papers:.....

.....

# After A Death Has Occured: A Checklist

## Notify these people as soon as possible:

- The funeral director, who will arrange the transfer of the deceased and set up an appointment with you to make further arrangements.
- Relatives, executor/executrix, and friends
- Employer, both of the deceased (if applicable) and any relative who will need time off
- Insurance agents (life, health, and accidental)
- Religious, fraternal, civic, veterans organizations, and unions, if applicable
- Lawyer and accountant
- Clergy

## Start planning a service:

- Coordinate with the funeral home to arrange for burial or cremation. They will help you place a death notice or obituary on websites and newspapers.

## Arrange care for dependents:

- Coordinate care for children, elderly dependents, or pets

## Secure property and valuables:

- Safeguard the deceased's home, vehicles, and valuables
- Locate the deceased's wallet or purse
- Inventory the estate, which includes all assets and accounts and their value. Please note that the titling of each asset will determine if it is subject to probate.

## Locate important documents:

- Will, trusts, and/or letters of instruction
- Insurance policies
- Financial accounts and statements (like bank accounts, retirement, and brokerage accounts)
- Social Security card, Medicare card, birth certificate, marriage certificate, divorce decree, adoption paperwork, or other identification documents
- Deeds and titles
- Military discharges and service personnel records. If the family wishes to have military honors, they will need the most recent service record

# Affordable Monuments

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Hiram, GA 30141  
(770) 439-4300

gdigger1964@yahoo.com



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