

# NATURAL FUNERAL PLANNING PERSONAL INFORMATION SHEET



**Legal Name** (First, Middle, Last - Maiden name if Applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Residence Address** (Address, City, State, Zip Code Plus 4)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Personal Contact Info** (phone, e-mail)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Legal Next of Kin or Appointed Funeral Director** (\* Indicate if named person is an Appointee) and contact info. \_\_\_\_\_

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION – PRINT CLEARLY – required at death; use other side if needed**

DOB - MON DD YYYY	Sex
Social Security Number	Race
Birthplace (City/Town or County)	Hispanic Origin Y/N?
State or Foreign Country	Education Level
Father's name (First, Middle, Last)	Usual Occupation
Mother's maiden name (First, Middle, Last)	Kind of Industry
Armed Forces Svc? Branch of Svc & DD214	Discharge Date
Spouse's name	
<b>AFTER DEATH INFORMATION</b>	
Place of Death	Marital status at TOD
Facility Name	County of Death
Location of Death (Address)	Date of Death
City/Town or Location of Death	State & Zip Code + 4
Place of Disposition (facility name)	Method of Disposition
Location of Place of Disposition (address)	Date of Disposition (below)
	MON DD YYYY

**MY FINAL ARRANGEMENT WISHES (check all that apply - attach additional wishes as needed)**

1. \_\_\_ I have already made my arrangements at this time and \_\_\_ don't expect them to change **OR** \_\_\_ I'm still working on them: (examples – bought a plot; have arrangements with a funeral home, etc)
  2. \_\_\_ When my death occurs, \_\_\_ **INSTEAD** of a funeral director **OR** \_\_\_ in ADDITION to a funeral director (you may check both if both are OK with you) I would like for my Body to be cared for by (names) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
3. In the event of any disputes between my family members for any reason, I would prefer that \_\_\_\_\_ make the final decision and that others abide by this choice.

ARRANGEMENTS CONTINUED

4. If for some reason a family-directed home funeral is impractical, I would like the funeral arrangements to be:  
\_\_\_\_ Arranged by my funeral director (include copies of any contracts, contact info & arrangements in writing)  
\_\_\_\_ Arranged by Other \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: if "Other", it's recommended that you obtain your State's version of a "personal funeral director appointment" and have it signed and notarized properly and stored with these papers.**

**MY BODY AND THE IMMEDIATE FUNERAL** *(a memorial happens AFTER the funeral; the funeral has the body present. The Be a Tree and Natural Burial Company webpages have links to natural funeral service providers)*

In the event of my death, I prefer a:

\_\_\_\_ Home Funeral? where? \_\_\_\_\_

If you want a home funeral, which family members have you discussed this with?

\_\_\_\_ Funeral Director managed services with/at \_\_\_\_\_ (Paid yet?) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**At the time of my death, let family & friends gather for a VISITATION period ("viewing")**

\_\_\_\_ according to my family's \_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_'s wishes - can decide at the time what to do

\_\_\_\_ just prior to \_\_\_\_ or at \_\_\_\_ (check one) the funeral ceremony

\_\_\_\_ for one or two or \_\_\_\_\_ days prior to the funeral ceremony

\_\_\_\_ privately for family and close friends\* only (attach list of people to include or not include as important)

\_\_\_\_ no visitation at all, no matter what anyone else says

**MERCHANDISE AND SERVICES** *(check/circle all as appropriate; attach pictures, ads, internet sites, etc)*

I would like the following items, if possible (prioritize if making more than one choice):

\_\_\_\_ **Cardboard casket/container** – notes: \_\_\_\_\_

Hand decorated is nice \_\_\_\_ Do not Decorate \_\_\_\_ Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ **Wooden casket** (or kit) – notes: \_\_\_\_\_

I've picked one out \_\_\_\_ I already got one \_\_\_\_ Cheap is best \_\_\_\_ Great; support an artist! \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ **Willow or woven coffin** – notes: \_\_\_\_\_

I've picked one out \_\_\_\_ I already got one \_\_\_\_ Cheap is best \_\_\_\_ Great; support an artist! \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ **Shroud** – notes: \_\_\_\_\_

I've picked one out \_\_\_\_ I already got one \_\_\_\_ Cheap is best \_\_\_\_ Great; support an artist! \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ **Shrouding Board** <sup>(TM)</sup> – for use with a shroud; available from Natural Burial Company

I already got one \_\_\_\_ Still need to buy \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Urn Style: Artist made** \_\_\_\_\_ **Biodegradable** \_\_\_\_\_ **Other** \_\_\_\_\_  
I've picked one out \_\_\_\_\_ I already got one \_\_\_\_\_ Cheap is best \_\_\_\_\_ Great; support an artist! \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Keepsake Urn**

Handblown glass \_\_\_\_\_ Goodwill Spice Jar or... \_\_\_\_\_ Jewelry or Beads or \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **The Wild Side (cremated remains only!!)**

Fireworks, Yes! \_\_\_\_\_ Outer Space, Yes! \_\_\_\_\_ Synthetic Diamond, Yes! \_\_\_\_\_ DNA Crystal \_\_\_\_\_

**MY ENVIRONMENTAL/PERSONAL VALUES**

**In the event that someone else makes decisions on my behalf and I'm not present, the following things are important to me about the merchandise or services you buy in my name (rate 0-5, 5 being tops, 0=unimportant)**

\_\_\_\_\_ natural and biodegradable; low environmental impact, other: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ made in USA

\_\_\_\_\_ Organic (food, flowers, fabric, reception, \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_\_ Cottage/Artisan Industry (someone made it by hand and it's keeping handicraft arts alive)

\_\_\_\_\_ beautiful

\_\_\_\_\_ reflects my tastes, colors, and general sense of the world

\_\_\_\_\_ kept to minimum cost, *no matter what!*

\_\_\_\_\_ I don't care - I'm gone - let my family or personal representative choose whatever they like

\_\_\_\_\_ Other specific requests \_\_\_\_\_

**DISPOSITION PREFERENCE** (*"Final Disposition" means what's done with your body after the funeral*)

\_\_\_\_\_ **I Want NATURAL BURIAL – IMPORTANT NOTE:** attach a copy of your Right to Interment (cemetery contract) and any deeds or other contracts for products or services already purchased along with any other instructions to this sheet.

It is my wish to have:

\_\_\_\_\_ a **natural earth burial** at \_\_\_\_\_ Cemetery (attach cemetery location info and wishes)

\_\_\_\_\_ a **natural earth burial** on my property \_\_\_\_\_ (attach deed info and wishes)

\_\_\_\_\_ a **natural sea burial** at \_\_\_\_\_ (this is best arranged for by yourself, in advance!)

**NATURAL BURIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

All cemeteries permit the use of biodegradable coffins and urns - i.e., products made of wood, paper, cloth or woven wicker. While many cemeteries still require those items to be put in concrete vaults in the ground, there are still many cemeteries that do not. Pioneer and historic cemeteries; garden arboretum cemeteries; publicly owned cemeteries - all have natural burials on their grounds if they're older than 1950, and many are now considering removing the vault requirement if the burial includes some additional maintenance money to cover the small but present cost of filling a collapsed gave and/or caring for a special tree over its lifetime.

One of the best ways to locate your future cemetery is to research cemeteries in the area you'd like to be buried. After identifying several that appeal to you, discuss what you want and negotiate. Most cemeteries have declining

revenues and many are eager to cater to customers that aren't adding toxic or non-degrading materials to their landscapes. If the cemeteries are unfamiliar with the practice, refer them to the "Be a Tree" and Natural Burial Company webpages, where they can learn about courses that instruct them in the practice of sustainable cemetery management.

**Answering the following questions will help others carry out your wishes - check all that apply:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like a tree or bush or flowers planted on my grave. Some of my favorite species include:

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\_\_\_\_\_ I'll accept an appropriately-sized planting from the cemetery's 'native species' list.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like our family to consider buying a block of plots, with a single "Family Tree" at its center.

\_\_\_\_\_ I like the idea of a grave on the edge of a cemetery section and near a special "wildlife habitat" planting like a hedgerow or forested area that is undisturbed and is supported by funds from my burial.

\_\_\_\_\_ I like the idea of a wildflower meadow on top of my grave.

\_\_\_\_\_ I DO NOT PREFER to have my grave mowed weekly during the growing season.

\_\_\_\_\_ A "natural look" is more beautiful to me than a "manicured" one and shows more respect for nature.

\_\_\_\_\_ I accept that "my" plantings won't live forever (either), and understand that maintenance periods may be limited by the fees we agree to pay.

\_\_\_\_\_ I'm open to the idea of "grave reuse" (see Be a Tree) if it becomes acceptable in the cemetery, and would consider letting future generations of my family use my grave space in the future (example: 100 years)

\_\_\_\_\_ I ACCEPT \_\_\_\_\_ OR I DO NOT ACCEPT \_\_\_\_\_ pets being buried in the cemetery that I'm buried in.

\_\_\_\_\_ If my grave is visited, please DO NOT BRING any plastic flowers or

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\_\_\_\_\_ I'd like a natural graveside service, buried with straw, flowers, and materials that aid decomposition.

\_\_\_\_\_ If the cemetery does not require a marker, I do NOT want one.

\_\_\_\_\_ A flat indigenous stone marker is fine\* (if you like the idea of a monument, here's your chance to write your favored inscription or any other guidance on the back of this sheet.)

I'm interested in the following cemeteries (list any that you like; include notes, brochures, and price lists)

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\_\_\_\_\_ **I Want CREMATION**

\_\_\_\_\_ Find a busy "thermally efficient" crematory that filters emissions (you can do that yourself and list it below)

\_\_\_\_\_ I want OR \_\_\_\_\_ I have purchased cremation services from \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (include contract)

Phone number & location of facility \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: if you're a member of a cremation society (like Neptune) read your contract carefully and make sure you understand any recent changes the society may have made to your contract. Include any payment receipts or contract copies with this sheet

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Has the Authorization to Cremate been signed? Check your state law & get a copy of the blank form. Start getting signatures – many States require **your body be stored til all required family signatures are in.**

**DISPOSITION OF CREMATED REMAINS** – Cremated remains are considered personal property and pose no public health threat. Some states have made rules about how cremated remains must be handled, but these rules may be unconstitutional, so if you have any questions about rules that you're told, research may prove your rights trump the naysayers. As long as the bones have been properly crushed (guaranteeing legal disposition took place) there is a lot of latitude for a creative disposition. Your preferences are usually important to your loved ones, so please list them below.

**I WANT MY CREMATED REMAINS TO BE** (check all that apply, since cremated remains can be split up!):

1) \_\_\_\_\_ part of the Living Cemetery's Memorial Habitat program (emerging program; see "Be a Tree")

I prefer supporting \_\_\_\_\_ Memorial Habitat Hedgerow research or \_\_\_\_\_ Cemetery Wildflower Meadow research or \_\_\_\_\_ Memorial Habitat Underwater research

2) \_\_\_\_\_ scattered \_\_\_\_\_ buried \_\_\_\_\_ inurned in a columbarium niche (describe preferred urn on back)

at: \_\_\_\_\_

3) given to \_\_\_\_\_ for further disposition at a later date (leave detailed instructions as to who and how or there could be mayhem!)

4) \_\_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_

5) \_\_\_\_\_ see my list on the back for urns, diamonds, fireworks, space shots and the rest!

6) The following people may have some of my cremated remains if they so choose:

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\_\_\_\_\_ **"Donate my body to Science"** – *Please note: this is not always a simple matter as there are lots of businesses that have a financial interest in your body; please do your research, make choices in writing, and make them all in advance. Information is available VIA links and articles on the Be a Tree and Natural Burial Company websites; conditions for this option are changing all the time!*

### **OBITUARY & SYMPATHY GIFTS**

\_\_\_\_\_ I want an obituary to be published (pre-writing out your basic details and storing here will be appreciated by all)

\_\_\_\_\_ I DO NOT want an obituary beyond what's legally required

It is my wish that monetary expressions of sympathy be:

\_\_\_\_\_ given to my family in care of the funeral home for use toward my funeral expenses

\_\_\_\_\_ directed to \_\_\_\_\_ charity or charities; or as so desired by my family

**OTHER THINGS I THINK ARE IMPORTANT TO DISCUSS** (attach sheets as needed):

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**NOTE TO FUTURE READERS:**

The information on these sheets should be considered my most current funeral planning preferences and I request they be carried out on my behalf whenever possible. I understand that the final decision may rest with another and, if so, I accept any adjustments they make **unless I have created a legally witnessed and notarized statement of these wishes that overrides any and all others per its statements.**

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My Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

My Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Please store this information in a safe place, easily accessible if needed quickly, and let family members, attorneys, or other relevant people in your life know your wishes!**

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*GROW THE KNOWLEDGE! You can help support the educational work done to further the cause of natural burial and sustainable cemetery management practices by writing a letter of encouragement for research and student training in this new field, and mailing it to:*

Oregon State University  
Department of Soil Science  
Sustainable Cemetery Studies Lab  
Crop Science Bldg - Rm 451-C  
Corvallis, OR 97331

*Donations to the Oregon State University Foundation fund research, scholarship and program outreach are greatly appreciated!*

**For more information about Natural Funeral and End-of-Life Planning visit these resources and tour their links (I help with these sites so I know they're active!)**

**"Be a Tree" <http://www.beatree.com>  
Natural Burial Company website <http://www.naturalburialcompany.com>  
The Natural End Map's Guide to natural funeral service providers:  
<http://www.naturalendmap.com>**

**AND, IN THE MEANTIME: LIVE LONG AND PROSPER!**