

GUIDE TO HINDU FUNERAL

GENERAL

Very rarely have families made any preparation for either the grief and sorrow or the financial strain of the unexpected death of a loved one. Such grief is far more difficult for the family to cope with when there is not enough information and /or money immediately available for a funeral of their loved one. The death of someone close to you may suddenly confronts with unfamiliar responsibilities, such as making funeral arrangements, dealing with banks, life insurance companies, courts, and other govt. agencies with an eye to family's financial needs.

This document was prepared by Pramila Domadia and Ramesh Vora with the help of several volunteers. Special thanks to Dr. Bapat and Pravin Shukla. THE PURPOSE OF PREPARING THIS BOOKLET IS TO PROVIDE GENERAL INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES WHICH MAY BE USEFULL TO THE FAMILY MEMBERS

Additional documents are available with the volunteers of TAHT. THAT Website:

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Quick Summary

THE STEPS FOR FUNERAL AND AFTER FUNERAL CAN BE ARRANGED AS FOLLOWS

- Arranging for a funeral service and disposal of the body.
- Taking care of all the financial accounts at brokerage firms and bank including safe deposit.
- Finding and reading the will.
- The deceased's assets, benefits, and liabilities must be assembled and evaluated in order to determine whether the estate requires administration before the probate court before it can be distributed to the beneficiaries or heirs.

Note:

If deceased person has made his or her own funeral arrangements then family should follow his/her wishes.

FUNERAL SERVICES

List of Funeral Homes are provided at the end of this booklet which are known to Funeral Committee, which are familiar with Hindu Funeral Ceremony and have Crematory on site.

Choosing a Funeral Home depends on:

- Cost of the funeral and cremation services. Average cost is \$7500
- Availability of the funeral home and the priest for their service on desired date and time
- Availability of close family members, who may need to travel to attend the ceremony.

Announcement

Announce the place, Date and time of the funeral via Local News Paper, Temple or community communications channels. If family wishes to select a charity for contribution in lieu of flowers, include that in the announcement.

Preparing for Funeral

- Funeral Home will pick up the body from hospital, home or any other facility.
- Funeral Home will also obtain Death certificate. Family should get 8-10 copies of the death certificate that is required by banks, Social Security Administration, brokerage companies etc.
- Funeral Director will file needed forms to Social Security Administration and other Government agencies. They will also send obituary to local papers if desired.

Day of Funeral

Following steps are typical for a Hindu family

- Appoint a MC for Funeral process for smooth flow. MC will make all announcements, introduce guest speakers, and keep every thing under control).
- Keep a large sized framed picture of deceased at the entrance of the hall, a guest book and many **copies of eulogies for guest**.
- Select a CD with Bhajans, or a group chanting in family's preferred God's names during the quiet period.
- Have few flower arrangements by relatives or friends near cascade if desired.
- Have one person to take pictures or video of the ceremony if desired.
- Ceremony begins with puja according to family's wishes by the priest selected by the family.
- Close relatives, friends, and coworkers **may provide eulogy**
- All visitors will pay respect by offering deceased person flower petals and leave the room; the staff will close the cascade and roll it to the crematory for cremation.
- After small ceremony by the son the body is transferred in a cardboard box and rolled in to the chamber, son pushes the switch for the fire, the door closes and in 15-20 minutes, the body turns in to ashes.
- MC needs to pick up the picture, Guest book, flowers, Donation Checks, CD or any other items brought from home.
- Family receives the asthi (ashes) in an urn next day.

DISPOSING ASHES/ BODY.

SCATTERING OF ASHES IN A BODY OF WATER LIKE LAKE IS NOT PERMITTED IN U.S.A. IT REQUIRES A SPECIAL PERMISSION BY LOCAL AUTHORITY TO SCATTER ASHES IN A RIVER OR SEA. In Raleigh NC Poole Funeral home has a "Scattering Garden" where ashes can be scattered THERE ARE COMPANIES THAT WILL ARRANGE FOR SHIPMENT OF CREMATED REMAINS TO INDIA TO SUBMURGE THE ASHES IN RIVER GANGES.

If the body is transported back to India or to other countries, approximate cost is \$ 4000-5000. Original death certificate, original passport of the diseased, letter from the health department testifying

absence of contagious disease is required when body or the ashes is to be transported.

Recommendations for all:

Plan ahead for your own funeral! Make clear your wishes for all areas listed. This will save your loved ones a lot of heartache and decision making tasks.

Have all your information such as wills, bank records, insurance policies, Titles and deeds, IRA, pension plans, your financial planner's name and number, titles for home(s) and car(s), mortgage record, credit card information, safe deposit box information in a place. Communicate this information to your trusted kin/friend.

All of us should have following documents dully prepared and registered.

- Advance Directive for Health Care – A Living Will
- Last Will and Testaments
- Durable Power of Attorney

ORGAN OR FULL BODY DONATION

Hindu traditions or law do not prohibit organ or Body donation. Embalming is also acceptable in Hinduism if required. Family should discuss the need with Funeral Director
People wishing to donate the body for this purpose can contact organization named “ Medicure” It connects Donors to medical professionals. Plan ahead, Register your intent. Visit or contact Medicure (1-866-560-2525, fax 1-503-257-9101, email donate@medicure.org. Mail 18111 NE Sandy Blvd. Portland OR 97230)

Relevant Laws and regulations

This booklet is written considering NC laws. However for reference relevant NC laws are listed below.

10A NCAC 44.0501 INVESTIGATION BEFORE CREMATION OR BURIAL AT SEA.

Requires medical examiner certificate before cremation.
Funeral Director can help obtain one.

10A NCAC 44.0304 Identity of Decedent AND Next of Kin, 10A NCAC 44.0305, 10A NCA 44.0310, 10A NCAC 44.0307 Cremation.

These regulation addresses the procedure for confirming identity of the deceased, locating nearest relative, responsibility of the person taking possession of the body, transportation and disposal of the body.

Temple contact information

Hindu Society of North Carolina	919 481 2574
SV temple (psident@svtemplenc.org)	919 468 0040
BAPS	919 469 6605
Swaminarayan Hindu Temple	919 964 1008
ISKON	919 593 6827
Sikh Gurdwara	919 220 9917
Sai Mandir	919 386 1085

Funeral Homes supporting Hindu cremation services

Harold Poole Funeral Service,

<https://www.poolefuneral.com/>

944 Old Knight Road, Knightdale, NC, 27545.

Phone: 910-266 3648

Owners Harold and Barbara offer three packages and will help family choose affordable options. Onsite Crematorium.

Apex Funeral Home,

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/funeral-homes/apex-nc/apex-funeral-home/1015>

550 Williams Street, Apex, NC. Phone: 919-362-8233

Brown-Wayne Funeral Home,

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/funeral-homes/cary-nc/brown-wynne-funeral-home-cary/4234>

200 SE Maynard Rd, Cary, NC, Phone: 919-467 -8108

Lori's Funeral Service

<http://www.lorisfuneralhome.com/what-we-do/cremation-services>

1014 Garner Road, Raleigh NC 27601.

Phone: 919 832 0636

National Cremation Service

<https://www.nationalcremation.com/location/raleigh>

716 West North Street, Raleigh, NC 27603

Phone: 919 235 3337

Information regarding an “ organic” funeral (Burial without embalming) is available from the funeral directors. Ask for the same.

If the diseased is an organ donor make sure to follow the steps listed above before beginning cremation process.

Flowershops

- 1.American Florist—————800-872-3837
2. Flowershop-Durham————919-286-1288
3. Angel’s Florist—————908-725-5082
- 4.Basket Tree Florist———— 919-362-7680

Funeral committee

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