



The Community

NEWSLETTER

A Family Serving Families Worldwide Since 1980

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Letter from

Gregory & Betty Levett, Sr.

Before Betty and I opened our funeral home I sold insurance, and she worked at a grocery store in Conyers. Although I had a background in funeral service from my dad, I only worked in the business part time. It wasn't until Betty's friend lost her two children that I decided to quit my job and open my own funeral home, Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory, Inc. We were so fulfilled spiritually and mentally after helping her friend that we wanted to continue helping families for years to come. My goal was to serve one family a week; today we serve over 1400 families a year. We contribute our success with having strong faith, tithing, working diligently in the community and building a strong team to help us carry out our vision. We hope this newsletter helps prepare you in case a tragic death occurs. If Betty's friend didn't know us personally she would not have known who to call, relying upon someone else to refer them to a funeral home they had no connection with. If someone you love or know has passed and you are not sure where to begin, allow us to assist you every step of the way. Although we may be a new funeral home to you, we hope to build a long standing relationship with you and your family, so that you trust our firm for generations to come. We never take for granted the loyalty of our previous families we've served. We work carefully to provide everyone with that same level of passion and service as we did for the burial of those two precious children over 37 years ago. Our services do not just end after your desired arrangements, but even years from now we will only be a phone call away to be there for you.



SOMEONE I LOVE HAS PASSED

Someone you love has died. The first few days following a death can be very draining. You may be feeling numb and overwhelmed with all the details requiring attention. You may not know what you are expected to do. You may also fear doing the wrong thing. Take a deep breath and realize that you are not alone. Many people are ready to help you plan the funeral, doing all that must be done in the coming week. Be assured that Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory will help with the planning, paperwork and the many details that follow a death. Our professional experience will help guide you through the next steps.

If a Death Occurs at Home

When a death occurs at home or in the workplace, a family member or co-worker should contact emergency personnel and the person's physician, if he or she was under doctor's care. If the death occurs at home with family or friends present, call emergency personnel, and then call a funeral home directly. If the person dies at home under hospice care, call the hospice nurse, who can declare the death and help facilitate the transport of the body. If the person dies at home without hospice care, call 911, and have in hand a do-not-resuscitate document, if it exists.

If a Death Occurs While Under Supervised Care

When a death occurs in a care facility, such as a hospital or nursing home, the facility's staff will notify you and the necessary authorities. If the name of the funeral home has been left with them, the institution will notify the funeral home at the time of the death. We always suggest you contact the funeral home immediately.



The Next Steps

1. Secure property. Lock up the person's home and vehicle. Have someone care for pets until a permanent arrangement is made. Use the forward mail option. This will prevent accumulating mail from attracting attention. It can also inform you about subscriptions, creditors and other accounts that need to be canceled. The mail that comes in will be very valuable in tracking down what you may not have thought of.
2. Choose a funeral home. Most people want a funeral home to transport the body from the morgue to its facility. The deceased may have identified which home to use and even prepaid for funeral services. If there's been no conversation about arrangements, the choice will be up to the family. It is helpful to bring insurance policies, pre need policies, or military discharge documentation (DD214) at the time of your meeting.
3. Follow body bequeathal instructions and arrange for organ donation. If the person made arrangements to donate his or her body to a medical school, the family must respect those wishes. An advance directive, living will, or health proxy may guide you to a particular institution. If the person hasn't made arrangements, the next of kin can donate the body, but the decision needs to be made as early as possible.
4. Call Employer. Call the person's employer, if he or she was working. Request information about benefits and any pay due. Ask whether there was a life insurance policy through the company.
5. Gather life insurance documents. Please be prepared to bring life insurance policy information with you, if you plan on using it to pay for final arrangement costs. It will also be helpful to call insurance company to make them aware of the death and begin a death claim.
6. For a veteran, inquire about special arrangements. A range of benefits can help tailor a veteran's service. Call Veterans Affairs at 1-800-827-1000, or your local veteran's agency, often included in local government listings.

Paraphrased from articles by:
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PLANNING THE FUNERAL OR CREMATION SERVICE

Why do we have funerals? For thousands of years funerals have been means of expressing our beliefs, thoughts and feelings about the death of someone we love.



What the ceremony does:

- Helps us acknowledge that someone we love has died.
- Allows us to say goodbye.
- Provides a social support system for loved ones, friends and family members.
- Allows us to contemplate the meaning of life and death.
- Offers continuity and hope for the living.

Another way to think of the funeral is as a final tribute to the person who has passed.

COMMON FUNERAL TERMS

At-Need:

Funeral and cemetery arrangements made at the time of death.

Burial Vault:

A lined and sealed outer receptacle that is specifically engineered to support the weight of the earth grave, as well as the heavy equipment that passes over it.

Cremation:

Reduction of body to ashes by fire.

Crematory:

A building which houses a retort.

Embalm:

The process of preserving a dead body.

Eulogy:

A brief speech that offers praise and celebrates the life of the person who has died.

Family Car:

A limousine in the funeral procession set aside for the use of the immediate family.

Final Disposition:

The decision to choose between burial and cremation.

First Call:

The initial call from the family notifying the funeral home of a death.

Full Couch:

A casket which opens completely from one end to the other.

Half Couch:

A casket which only half of the top opens from the head to the waist of the deceased.

Hearse:

A motor coach designed usually for the transporting of casketed remains from the place of the funeral service to the cemetery.

Living Will:

A written statement detailing a person's desires regarding their medical treatment in circumstances in which they are no longer able to express informed consent, especially an advance directive.

Memorial Service:

A service in memory of the deceased without the body being present. Also applies when a service has only cremains/ashes present.

Obituary:

The paragraph in the obituary section of a newspaper, or on the internet, publicizing the death of a person and giving details of the funeral service the survivors wish to have published.

Organ donation:

The process of surgically removing an organ or tissue from one person, and placing it into another person (the recipient).

Next-of-Kin:

A person's nearest relative; the person who holds the responsibility for making decisions for the funeral on behalf of the deceased.

Preplan:

The process in which an individual creates their statement of wishes for their final event plan, allowing loved ones to focus on celebrating a life lived.

Prearranged Funeral:

Funeral arrangements completed by an individual prior to his/her death, often funded by insurance or trust.

Register:

A book made available by the funeral director for recording the names of people visiting the funeral home to pay their respects to the deceased.

Urn:

A container into which cremated remains are placed. Made of metal, wood, or stone.

Visitation:

An opportunity for survivors and friends to view the deceased in private; usually in a special room within the funeral home.

Wake:

A watch or vigil held beside the body of someone who has died.

