

Preparing for Your Child's or Youth's Memorial Service



This booklet contains information to support you following the death of your child. We hope to support you in honouring your child's life in a way that feels meaningful to you.

The social work team can support you with making an appointment with a licensed provider to discuss your arrangements.

This packet includes information on the following topics:

- Choosing a Provider
- Questions to Ask
- Memorial and Legacy Pieces





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Choosing a provider

A licensed operator can provide guidance and support with arrangements. This includes support with necessary documentation, decision-making and next steps. They can help you decide whether and where you may wish to hold a remembrance service, such as at your place of worship or another meaningful location.

Things to Consider When Choosing a Provider:

- Proximity to your home
- Past experiences where you felt supported
- If you have a preferred cemetery, whether it is associated with a specific funeral home

If you choose not to use a licensed service provider, please consult the Guide to Death Care in Ontario for general information on the process.



Bereavement Authority of Ontario's
Guide to Death Care in Ontario



RogerNeilsonChildrensHospice.ca

399 chemin Smyth Road | Ottawa, ON, K1H 8L2 | Tele.: (613) 523-6300 | Fax: (613) 523-3617



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Questions to Ask

- Do you offer products or services specifically designed for children or youth?
- What experience do you have in supporting families from my religious and/or cultural background?
- What experience do you have with planning a child or youth's funeral?
- Can you assist with official documentation? (e.g. death certificates)
- What financial arrangements are available?
- Do you offer support to siblings and other children?
- Do you offer memorial or legacy pieces?
- What funeral care services do you provide (e.g., embalming, cremation, burial, transportation)?

Each provider offers different services and levels of support. It's okay to ask questions to ensure their approach aligns with your wishes for honouring your child.



Memorial and Legacy Pieces

Many funeral establishments offer a variety of memory making options, usually at an additional cost. It is important to ask the funeral home about what options are available for you and your family.

If you would like to include your own personal memory making items in the child or youth's service, check with the funeral home about how you can integrate them and what options they offer.



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