

## Celebrants and Ministers

We are fully aware that, as a **celebrant**, by the time you meet most families, decisions about the type of funeral booked have already been made. However, as professionals you occasionally have the opportunity to meet individuals, families and the dying through other activities: promotional work, giving talks, open days and direct engagement. In these situations you may be asked about alternative options. For example some families may find a direct funeral ([Direct Funerals](#)) inappropriate but a DIY funeral might be exactly the right choice, especially if finances are stretched in these difficult economic times. ([DIY Funerals](#))

Do you know?

- It is perfectly legal and easy to be buried on private land in the UK. No official's permission is required, the death is registered in the normal way. The landowner just needs to create a simple burial register, we can provide a free template for this. Please print off this home/private land burial information for future reference ([Home Burial](#))
- The deceased can be kept at home...unless the coroner is involved.
- There is no law that states who has to carry out the funeral. Friends and family can organise everything themselves. Please print off this information sheet too. ([DIY Funerals](#))
- A coffin can be transported in any roadworthy vehicle, no specialist insurance is necessary. Sometimes just a hearse is required, 'Carriage Master' companies will provide a hearse and driver.
- Increasingly funeral directors are becoming more flexible as families' needs change; "shop around, they vary hugely" is always our advice. In many cases families can 'jump ship' to another company if they are unhappy with the service or attitude they are experiencing.

***The UK has the most relaxed and flexible funeral arena in the world...we are the envy of many!***

For many years the NDC has advised countless families in all aspects of DIY funerals. We have never heard any regrets from families, not once! On the contrary, they tell us how helpful everyone was, how cathartic the experience was and that they had a lovely day...carried out with care, love and sensitivity, at their own pace. You can be part of this experience.

As a professional celebrant, already armed with a valuable and unique set of skills, you can be instrumental in promoting change. You can encourage open discussions, impart knowledge and offer advice. The NDC has free fact sheets and resources available. Everything from grave digging and cautionary tales of funeral plans to funeral wishes forms. Please get in touch and we can share these with you.

We hope that you will choose, like the NDC, to support those who often receive incorrect or mis-information about funerals, at a time when they are least robust! Don't be the professional that places obstacles in the way of funeral choice... know your facts?

The NDC thank you in advance for your assistance with our latest campaign. Together we can increase awareness and help the general public realise all of the funeral options available to them and how to proceed.

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