Armchair Advice Bereavement – Funeral Planning Checklist

If you are planning your own funeral or the funeral of a relative or loved one who has died without discussion or planning arrangements then you may find the checklist below a helpful starting point.

- ☐ Select funeral director
- ☐ Complete will or check will for pertinent funeral preferences
- ☐ Choose location for burial or cremation
- ☐ Choose coffin or urn
- ☐ Choose headstone or marker
- ☐ Choose burial clothing
- ☐ Choose flowers
- ☐ Choose church or place for funeral service
- ☐ Contact religious official if you wish to have a religious service
- ☐ Choose method of transportation
- ☐ Decide on service including any music or hymns
- ☐ Write up a card with details of the service with spaces for day/time to be inserted
- ☐ Write up list of those you wish to be invited to attend including address and phone number
- ☐ Decide on readings (if any) and who you would like to read
- ☐ Prepare an obituary and decide papers in which you want it to appear
- ☐ Organise after funeral arrangements (known as a wake)
- ☐ Arrange where out of town visitors will stay
- ☐ Decide who will deal with sympathy calls and messages and who will speak to family and friends
- ☐ Calculate the cost of the funeral and how you will pay for this.

Funeral directors are well versed in what happens after someone dies and they can be a valuable source of support and information if you are planning a funeral.