



# Melissa Haley

## Civil Celebrant

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## Funeral Information Kit

### **Cherish what we have lost...**

I'm am honoured that you have chosen me to be a part of your funeral service and hope that together we can create a service that truly reflects, celebrates and honours your loved one.

As your celebrant I am committed to providing you with a unique, remarkable and memorable celebration of your loved one's life. This ceremony should reflect the innate personal qualities and values of the person being remembered and the family who are paying tribute. To achieve this, I work closely with you to understand your goals, values and aspirations to craft a ceremony that will reflect the individual, the family, and their beliefs and wishes for this day.

As a member of your team what do I bring to the event? I have a great sense of purpose and can offer a calm and comforting presence during your funeral service. I utilise differing perspectives so that I can create something totally unique for you... that suits you and your loved one to a tee! As a teacher, tertiary educator and life coach I am well equipped to in public speaking and communication to connect with people of all ages to ensure your ceremony is both well planned, scripted and executed.

### **The purpose of the ceremony...**

A funeral is an opportunity to say goodbye to a loved one. Funerals offer the living a moment to accept and understand the cycle and nature of life, and to reflect on the leaning of life and death. Funerals are a tool for family, friends and the community to provide support for each other during periods of grief.

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### The Basic structure of the ceremony

The basic structure of a funeral can be used as a is as follows (alterations to suit needs are actively encouraged):

- Welcome/Introduction
- Why we are here
- Biography/Eulogy
- Description of person and their qualities
- Reflection
- Moment of silence
- Readings
- Rituals
- Photo slide show
- Closing words
- Final farewell

### Some examples of songs, Quotes, rituals and poems that can be used for a Funeral as your starting point:

POEMS	
<p><b>Funeral Blues <i>By W.H. Auden</i></b> Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone, Prevent the dog from barking with a juicy bone, Silence the pianos and with muffled drum Bring out the coffin, let the mourners come.</p> <p>Let aeroplanes circle moaning overhead Scribbling on the sky the message 'He is Dead'. Put crepe bows round the white necks of the public doves, Let the traffic policemen wear black cotton gloves.</p> <p>He was my North, my South, my East and West, My working week and my Sunday rest, My noon, my midnight, my talk, my song; I thought that love would last forever: I was wrong.</p> <p>The stars are not wanted now; put out every one, Pack up the moon and dismantle the sun, Pour away the ocean and sweep up the wood; For nothing now can ever come to any good.</p>	<p><b>"Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep" by Mary Elizabeth Frye</b></p> <p>Do not stand at my grave and weep; I am not there. I do not sleep. I am a thousand winds that blow. I am the diamond glints on snow. I am the sunlight on ripened grain, I am the gentle autumn rain. When you awaken in the morning's hush, I am the swift uplifting rush Of quiet birds in circled flight. I am the soft stars that shine at night. Do not stand at my grave and cry; I am not there. I did not die.</p>

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### POEMS (CONT.)

#### Native American Poem

I give you this one thought to keep.  
I am with you still. I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow.  
I am the diamond glints on the snow.  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.  
I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you awaken in the morning's hush,  
I am the swift, uplifting rush  
of quiet birds in circled flight.  
I am the soft stars that shine at night.

Do not think of me as gone.  
I am with you still in each new dawn.

#### Candle On The Water

I'll be your candle on the water  
My love for you will always burn  
I know you're lost and drifting  
But the clouds are lifting  
Don't give up, you have somewhere to turn

I'll be your candle on the water  
'Till every wave is warm and bright  
My soul is there beside you  
Let this candle guide you  
Soon you'll see a golden stream of light

A cold and friendless tide has found you  
Don't let the stormy darkness pull you down  
I'll paint a ray of hope around you  
Circling in the air, lighted by a prayer

I'll be your candle on the water  
This flame inside of me will grow  
Keep holding on, you'll make it  
Here's my hand, so take it  
Look for me reaching out to show  
As sure as rivers flow  
I'll never let you go

#### An extract from No Matter What

"Does love wear out" said Small, "does it break or bend? Can you fix it, stick it, does it mend?"  
"Oh help," said Large "I'm not that clever. I just know I'll love you forever".  
Small said: "But what about when you're dead and gone - would you love me then, does love go on?"  
Large held Small snug as they looked out at the night, at the moon in the dark and the stars shining bright. "Small, look at the stars - how they shine and glow. Yet some of those stars died a long time ago. Still they shine in the evening skies... love, like starlight, never dies".

#### An extract from Fahrenheit 451

Everyone must leave something behind when he dies, my grandfather said. A child or a book or a painting or a house or a wall built or a pair of shoes made. Or a garden planted. Something your hand touched some way so your soul has somewhere to go when you die, and when people look at that tree or that flower you planted, you're there. It doesn't matter what you do, he said, so as long as you change something from the way it was before you touched it into something that's like you after you take your hands away.

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### Rituals

Balloon release lantern release

Light a candle

Tree planting

Memory table

Memorial book

### Music

One last song - Sam Smith

See You Again - Carrie Underwood

Small Bump - Ed Sheeran

Hurt - Christina Aguilera

Photograph - Ed Sheeran

There you'll be - Faith Hill

Tears In Heaven - Eric Clapton

My Heart Will Go On - Celine Dion

One Sweet Day - Mariah Carey & Boys to Men

This Is Your Song - Ronan Keating

All Out of Love - Air Supply