

I'M CELEBRATING LIFE



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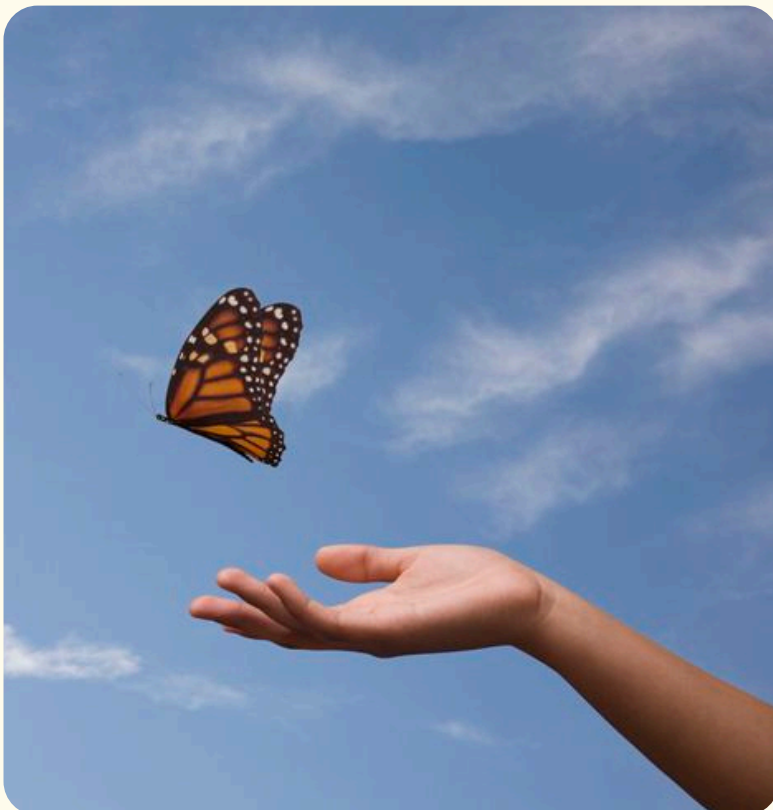
CIVIL CELEBRANT

WHERE DO I START?

How can I begin to plan something special for someone I love?

Saying goodbye to a loved one is one of the most difficult things we will ever do.

I hope the following notes and suggestions provide some guidance - and help you feel more confident and supported as you create a meaningful ceremony for someone you love.



My role is to guide and support you in your planning, to help coordinate the various aspects of a service, and to assist you in creating a ceremony that celebrates the life of the person you love.

Some suggestions to guide your planning



When planning a service, consider:

- What tone do you want the ceremony to have?

(e.g. reflective, uplifting, spiritual, simple)

- What elements are important?

(music, readings, eulogy, ritual and actions such as lighting candles or placing flowers or other memory items for people to see)

- Who might speak or participate in the service?

Developing a eulogy - the story of a person's life

Consider mentioning:

- Important life events - birth, education, employment and family

- Include not only what the person did, but also why?

What motivated them to study, play sports, and be involved in community activities? Why did they do these things?

- What made the person laugh? Or cry? Or be angry?

- What made them proud and happy?

- Did they have favourite sayings or funny ways?

- What three words describe the person?

- It is impossible to capture the detail of a life, so try to capture the 'essence' of the person

- Think - How would they like to be remembered?

Hint - A eulogy is generally 5-10 minutes in length

Audio-visual sharing of memories

- Select approximately 30 images to show as one song is played (3-4 minutes)

- Don't rush through images but allow time for people to explore what you are sharing and to reflect on the life of the person.

Family members and friends speaking at the service

- Keeping reminiscences to 3-4 minutes per person means that more than one person can share memories, and other activities might be included in the ceremony.

- Before the ceremony, share information with other speakers (and your celebrant) so that each of the speakers does not repeat information.

How long should a ceremony be?

There is no 'rule', but the following is suggested as a guide:

- Memorial service: 30-45 - 60 minutes

- Graveside committal: 15 minutes

- Graveside service: 30 minutes