

Morris & Morris Funerals



Funeral Directors
ASSOCIATION OF NZ
MEMBER



A Helpful Guide to Funeral Planning and The Days Ahead

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Who Are We?

We understand strong family bonds and the emotional turmoil that often occurs through the loss of a loved one. We understand how to create special funeral services that are individual and unique, whether it's a burial or cremation ceremony, and we encourage family members to be a part of the decision making regarding the service.

We believe it is the dedication and professionalism of our staff, combined with our history of service, vision and commitment that makes us unique.

Our People

Our business is all about relationships. Our friendly team of fully trained staff share our drive to provide more than just an excellent level of funeral service.

The long lasting connections and bonds we form with families and individuals is what provides the real satisfaction in the services we offer.

Our people know that they make a difference to those experiencing the loss of a loved one and going through the funeral journey. From taking care of the initial worries and confusion of what to do to get started, to helping with grief management and care.

For as long as needed after the funeral, the Morris & Morris team is committed to providing the warmest and most personal service.

At Morris & Morris Funerals we have qualified funeral directors and embalmers. Our client families can take comfort in the knowledge that these services are all provided within our company and under the guidance of fully qualified staff and members of the New Zealand Embalmers Association (NZEA).

Our Role

We will support and guide you in a way that relieves you of as much stress as possible and then organise the funeral and service with total respect, according to your wishes.

We will meet at your home or at our premises, whichever you prefer. We will take you through every aspect of the funeral and guide you through the decision-making process to ensure you have the type of funeral you want. We place a high importance on having respect for clients' religious and cultural beliefs. Your funeral director will make all necessary arrangements so that the funeral runs smoothly. We will liaise with government agencies to complete required paperwork and arrange for you to meet with clergy or a celebrant to discuss the content of the service.

It is important to Morris & Morris Funerals that we provide continuity of care from the first point of contact to bereavement care support if you wish.



Our Perspective

We believe we have one of the most challenging jobs in the world but also one of the most rewarding. A funeral is often a sad and emotionally traumatic time for family members and friends and we understand the value that our friendly and experienced support brings to those who use our service.

Our History

Morris & Morris was founded in 1944 in Warkworth by Bernal and Mabel Morris. They carried out the business of funeral directing in the town for nine years before moving to Whangarei in 1953. In 1988 a new funeral home was built on Kamo Road at our present premises and a state of the art building with chapel and reception facilities was created for our clients. Morris & Morris was owned by the Morris family up until it was purchased in 2006 by the Little family, a well-known and respected family of funeral directors from Auckland. Gary Taylor, General Manager, heads our very experienced team at Morris & Morris.



We believe the company still operates today with the same level of care and professionalism that it provided in the 1940's with all the modern conveniences and technology of today's world to provide the complete funeral experience.

Memberships

Morris & Morris are members of the Funeral Directors Association of New Zealand, the national body that sets professional and ethical standards for member firms.

Our embalmers are members of NZEA – New Zealand Embalmers Association, the national body that recognises and sets qualifications in embalming practices.

“At Morris & Morris we value and appreciate the trust that the families of Northland have placed in us over the years. We pride ourselves on our service and commitment to each individual family we help. Our ability to listen and interpret the wishes of each family and our understanding of the enormously emotional time death and funeral arrangements can place on families, enables us through our care, respect and compassion to provide a meaningful celebration of life.”

– Gary Taylor.





Our Locations

Whangarei Branch

Our funeral home is equipped with the latest audio-visual equipment, modern reception lounge with catering facilities and offers two chapels. Totally refurbished in 2011, our main chapel seats 260 people and features three drop down screens with projectors for DVD's and presentations. Large screen TV's in the foyer and lounge cater for larger funerals. Our premises also offer three private arrangement rooms, two private viewing rooms, a smaller family chapel and a modern mortuary facility. Morris & Morris are the most up to date and comprehensive funeral home in Northland.



Dargaville Branch

Located on the corner of Victoria & Gladstone Street our modern recently completed facility is designed with our client families in mind. Everything you would expect of a modern funeral home is now available in Dargaville. A modest family reception area for small private services, private arrangement and viewing rooms and of course the most up to date facilities for the care of your loved one.

Our Dargaville branch services Dargaville, Maungaturoto, and the wider Kaipara District. We are proud members of the Funeral directors Association of New Zealand as well as being registered with Kaipara council to provide funeral services to the public.



Maunu Crematorium

Maunu Crematorium is situated in a quiet native bush just past the main Maunu Cemetery entrance on Cemetery Road, Maunu. Access to the crematorium is through the peaceful 'Glades of Remembrance' at the end of which you will find the car park situated in front of the chapel. The crematorium chapel accommodates 60 people and includes full audio capability. Morris & Morris own and operate the cremator for the local authority.



When Someone Dies...

When the death of a relative or friend occurs, it can be a very emotional and confusing time. The following information is designed to help your understanding and reassure you that we are here to help you every step of the way.

Burial or Cremation

Probably one of the first decisions you will need to make will be did the deceased wish to be buried or cremated? A burial will involve purchasing a plot and a fee for digging the grave. New Zealand law requires that all burials are in officially designated cemeteries. Plots are available at both local authority and privately owned cemeteries in Whangarei. We can help you with purchasing double plots if required or arranging a headstone or plaque after the funeral.

A cremation offers further options for a final resting place as ashes can be scattered, buried, kept or divided amongst family members. If cremation is a choice you would like to make, please give some thought as to what you would like done with the ashes as it is often difficult for family to make this decision after the funeral.

Where Will the Service Be?

The choice of venue is up to the individual and we encourage you to talk about venue ideas with us. The church is still a popular setting for funeral services and they often have reception areas available for friends and family to get together after the service. For families without a church connection, we provide a chapel and reception lounge at each of our three locations. However it may be appropriate for a funeral service to take place at a sports club, an outdoor location, at home or at a cemetery or crematorium chapel.

Minister or Celebrant

Clergy or celebrants often lead funeral services, but this too is entirely up to the individual's wishes. Morris & Morris is able to provide a suitable celebrant for the family if required.

Flowers

Flowers are wonderful expressions of affection and sympathy and a bouquet for the casket and other floral arrangements are popular. Morris & Morris can help coordinate your floral requirements or you may choose your own florist if preferred.

Catering

If you wish to have refreshments following a funeral service, Morris & Morris can organise this for you. Our caterers have many years of experience in both catering and event management. Like Morris & Morris, they are committed to providing excellent service to all their clients.



Caskets

Morris & Morris Funerals offers a wide range of caskets, urns and keepsakes for family to choose from. There are many options available today from solid timber caskets, veneer caskets, personalising a casket with vinyl art or paint and eco caskets made from sustainable timber supplies.

If you would like more information on caskets either contact us to send you a brochure, or visit our website at www.morrisandmorris.co.nz



Urns

Following a cremation, the ashes are returned to our company for safe keeping. We have a wide variety of urns you may like to have ashes placed in.

Service Sheets

Most funeral services today are accompanied by a printed service sheet outlining details such as words to hymns, readings, tributes and messages of thanks. A photo of the deceased on the cover of the sheet provides a lasting memorial. Our talented staff produce beautiful service sheet and bookmarks for our client families that personalise the service that little bit more.

Memorial Books

This book allows family and friends to acknowledge their presence at a funeral, write a tribute or simply record their best wishes to the family. These pages can then be bound into a book with pictures and tributes to your loved one.

Recording the Funeral Service

Live Streaming & recording of funeral services has now become a popular choice for many families. Where family and friends are unable to attend a service, a recording may be helpful in these circumstances. Families often record the service to keep as part of the family archives, much like photos.

Our two chapels have fully automated webcasting systems that record and stream live, family and friends are able to access the service through our website. With 90 days access to the recorded service, a livestream webcast provides an opportunity for a private farewell at any time and any place.

Professional video production companies are also available to record funeral service both within our funeral homes and at other venues. We can arrange this on your behalf.

Music

Music can often express our emotions and feelings in a way that our own words cannot. As a medium for the act of remembrance, music can have a powerful effect on those present at the funeral service. We can also arrange an organist or piper if you wish.

Whatever your choice, your funeral director will have a number of suggestions.

Photographic Tributes

Most people agree that photos are a wonderful way to recall a life well lived. A collection of photos accompanied by a piece of music selected by the family can be a lovely visual tribute during the funeral service.



Preparation of The Deceased

Embalming

Embalming at Morris & Morris Funerals is carried out by qualified embalmers or supervised by a member of the New Zealand Embalmers Association and in accordance with their code of ethics.

Embalming is a service provided to ensure that family and friends will have a safe and positive experience when viewing their loved one.

There are three reasons for embalming:

Sanitisation: The body is totally disinfected which renders micro-organisms harmless. This allows family and friends to view and touch the body without risk to their health.

Preservation: All tissue is preserved which slows down the natural decomposition of the body. The preservation can be adjusted in each individual case to allow for short, medium or long term preservation.

Presentation: Embalming ensures a body can be cosmeticised effectively and restorative work can be carried out, if necessary.

For further information on the embalming process you may wish to visit the New Zealand Embalmers Association website at www.nzembalmers.org.nz

Eco Preparation

At Morris & Morris Funerals we are affiliated to Eco Funerals and their website gives further details on eco friendly embalming practices. You may like to visit the website at www.ecofunerals.co.nz

Spending Time with The Deceased

This part of grieving is a tradition with some cultures but not all, therefore some people might feel uneasy about it.

For those who spend time with a person who has died it is often an important means of coming to terms with their death. For others it can be the time to express some of the emotion and feelings they have. Often it is simply a time of final farewell.

Spending time with someone who has died is just as important for children and teenagers as for adults.

In many cultures children commonly play around the open casket when someone dies and feel much more comfortable about death as a result.

Younger children are usually very accepting and curious about a person who has died. Seeing the deceased helps them to understand death better and that someone who has died doesn't feel things as living people do. This makes it easier for them to cope with burial or cremation, because they understand that it won't hurt or frighten the person who has died.

We have private viewing rooms available to family and friends and a family chapel for small gatherings. You may also wish to have your loved one taken home to spend the last few days prior to the funeral in their own surroundings. Whatever the family wishes, we will arrange for you.



The Day of The Funeral

Arriving at The Venue

On the day of the funeral, friends and family generally arrive at the venue up to 30 minutes prior to the service. Close family may like to greet mourners at the difficult time and wish to just sit in private until the funeral commences or not arrive until closer to the service beginning. Think about who in your family can meet mourners if you feel you may be unable to.

Bearers

If the casket is being carried in or out of the funeral venue, bearers will be required to assist with carrying. Family and friends will be honoured to assist in this role and you may also like to ask members of the service clubs if appropriate. It is preferable that the bearers have been asked prior to the day of the funeral so that they are aware of when they will be required. If the casket is to be carried into the venue, the funeral director will assemble the bearers outside and instruct them on how to carry the casket, normally at arms' length. For carrying out, the funeral director will brief the bearers prior to the commencement of the service on when to come forward. At the conclusion of the service they will instruct them when to lift and carry the casket from the venue.

The Service

Our funeral director will take care of coordinating the service throughout the funeral. They will have all mourners seated prior to the funeral commencing, hand out service sheets and will ensure music photographic tributes etc run smoothly. At the conclusion of the service the funeral director will either lead out the casket followed by the immediate family or if the casket is not to be carried from the funeral venue, they will invite the immediate family to pay their respects before exiting.



Conclusion of The Service

Funeral services conclude in a number of different ways. For families not travelling to the crematorium or cemetery the farewell will generally be at the funeral service venue. Whether the farewell takes place inside the funeral venue or at the hearse, it is common for mourners to be offered a flower to place on the casket as a final gesture of farewell. When the funeral service is to be followed by a burial or committal service at another location, your funeral director will liaise with you as to an appropriate time for departure. When the hearse departs it will drive away at a sedate pace with headlights illuminated. It is appropriate for following cares to do the same.

One thing you may need to think about at the conclusion of the funeral service is when you would like to have refreshments. It is completely the decision of the family but you might like to consider mourners who have travelled some distance to be there and people that may need to leave the service shortly after its conclusion. These people will want to spend some time with you and other friends and this may be difficult if the funeral moves off to the crematorium or cemetery. Taking these factors into consideration may help decide how best to complete the burial or cremation part of the funeral.

After The Funeral

What to Expect

In the days following the funeral you may find that tasks the deceased took care of have now fallen to you. For some people these tasks can seem difficult, sometimes overwhelming.

Some of the things that may need to be done following a death are:

- Changing bank account names and details
- Contacting WINZ or ACC for a funeral grant
- Updating details for utility companies such as power, gas, water and home phone
- Cutting off mobile phones, cancelling insurance policies, selling or disposing of assets you may not now require
- Writing thank you cards and letters to friends and family

These things will take several days and possibly several weeks to arrange and often cannot happen until you have a certified copy of the New Zealand Death Certificate.

Thank you cards

Morris & Morris can produce Thank you cards for you, memorial bookmarks and Catholic prayer cards are also available. If you would like to discuss these further, please phone our office at 09 437 5799.

Death certificates

Following the funeral, details for the death certificate are sent by Morris & Morris Funerals to the Ministry of Internal Affairs to register the death. The death certificate will take approximately 10 working days to be issued and returned to us after the funeral service. We will then post the original copy along with the funeral account to the person nominated as the account recipient.

The person who arranged the funeral will be sent an original copy of the death certificate. You may need additional copies of the death certificate to send off to financial institutions, insurance companies and some utility providers. If you require further copies, we are happy to provide this service. You will need to bring the original into us so we can copy it for you. (You can take these can be certified at the courthouse or by a JP)

Who to notify

There will be many people you need to notify following a death. Some of these will need to be done immediately, such as the executor of the will, solicitor, accountant and the bank. Many can be left until you feel ready to make these phone calls. We have included a helpful list in this brochure as a guide of the people and institutions you may need to contact. Keep a note of all those you contact to remind yourself in the future of what has been done.



After The Funeral

Probate

Probate is the procedure whereby a will is recognised by the courts as being authentic. It is necessary for the executors of the will to obtain probate from the court so that they have authority to deal with the deceased's assets (and liabilities) and to enable distribution of the estate in accordance with the will. Probate is granted by the Registrar of the High Court after receiving an application from the executors. It establishes that it was in fact the maker of the will who died, that the will was properly signed and witnessed and that the executors have been appointed. During the time probate takes to complete, the deceased's assets may be frozen. In most instances your solicitor will carry out probate for you.

Returning Jewellery

You will have been asked at the time of the funeral arrangement if jewellery was to be left on the deceased or retained in our care for the family. If you have asked for it to be retained, it will be placed in our safe and you can arrange to collect it by phoning during our office hours (Mon-Fri). You may also ask the funeral director to bring it on the day of the funeral so it can be returned to you.

Ashes

If a decision about the placement of ashes was not made at the time of the funeral arrangement, the ashes will be returned to our office within a week of the funeral in a secure container ready for you to uplift. From here, your funeral director will contact you to ascertain your wishes in relation to uplifting the ashes or assist in considering options for memorialisation.

Memorialisation

After the funeral you may like to consider installing a memorial to commemorate your loved one. Please contact us if you would like to discuss the option of a headstone or plaque to be designed and installed for you.

Financial Assistance

Work and Income New Zealand (WINZ) have a funeral grant that may be available to those who cannot pay the full cost of a funeral. The grant is asset tested and payable, at present, to a maximum of \$2,445.37*. Your funeral director will assist you on how to apply for this grant.

Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) has a funeral grant of \$7491.95* for deaths occurring as a result of an accident or medical misadventure.

You cannot claim a funeral grant from both WINZ and ACC.

Medical insurance companies also have a range of death covers. Check with your insurance company to find out whether this is included in your policy.

*Please note, amounts subject to change.

The Funeral Account

Your funeral director will give you a full estimate at the time of the funeral arrangement.

The funeral account is sent to the family within two weeks from the date of death and is due for payment within six weeks of invoice.

The company's policy on account payment is outlined to the family on our company 'Authority Form', which is signed by the person giving instructions at the time of the funeral arrangement.





Who to Notify

Who Should Be Notified Following a Death?

Listed below are organisations which may require notification following a death. This will assist you to finalise affairs and obtain assistance if required. You may like to note contact details beside those which are applicable. You can also visit www.mytrove.co.nz to notify IRD, MSD, a variety of insurance companies, banks and various other companies of the passing of your loved one.

Professionals

Solicitor or Public Trust Office

Accountant

Executor of Will

Doctor

Dentist

Chemist

Specialist or Hospital

Finance

Banks and other financial institutions

Insurance companies

(including Life Insurers and Superannuation Funds)

Employers

Credit Card providers

Department store accounts

Hire purchase companies

Home appliance and medical aid rentals

Government

Inland Revenue Department

Electoral Office

Work & Income NZ

Local Council (rates)

Motor Vehicle Registry

Services

Medicare and Health Funds (*e.g Southern Cross*)

Medic alert

Utility providers (*phone, power, gas*)

Clubs and Associations

Clubs, organisations and professional bodies

Church or religious organisations

Home care nursing services, meals on wheels

NZ Police (*Firearms Licensing Section*)

Other

Aftercare

At Morris & Morris Funerals the care of our client families continues beyond the funeral. Our aftercare services include complimentary bereavement care, memorials and plaques, or simply answering those questions you need answered. It is important to us that we are here for our families whenever they need us.

Bereavement Care Programme

Morris & Morris offer a complimentary service to our client families through The Grief Support and Education Charitable Trust (Grief Centre), which is a Registered Charity established in 2009 to assist and support those affected by grief and loss.

Bereavement Support can provide a listening ear, and can arrange for any further information, support, or resources that may be useful to you. Sometimes other family members might benefit from this support – please let the Grief Centre’s team member know this when they phone.

The Bereavement Support service offered by Morris & Morris Funerals also includes a complimentary counselling session for you or another family member, which can be accessed at any time if it feels helpful to see a counsellor.

These services are all provided as part of Morris & Morris Funerals ongoing commitment to going the extra mile, and providing you and your family with the very best of service and support.

Ways to Help with Grief

There are many ways to work through the grieving process, the most important of which is to express your grief in whatever way is appropriate for you. Remember each tear shed is a step closer to healing. Having people around who are willing to hear your story, be supportive and non-judgemental, will assist you throughout your healing.



Children and Grief

Children also grieve at the loss of a loved one. Some children may express grief in different ways and it is important to recognise and acknowledge their grief too. Encourage children to be involved in the funeral service if they are comfortable to do so, it will also make them feel included in an important family event.

Memorials and Plaques

A memorial can serve as a focus for remembering someone you have lost, a place to go and pay tribute or to simply spend some quiet time. At some time after the funeral you might wish to add a headstone or plaque in permanent memory of the deceased at the place of burial. Maunu Cemetery also has a book of remembrance and a beautifully wooded glade for scattering ashes.

At Morris & Morris our funeral directors can help guide you through this process and put you in touch with a monumental mason that will carry out your requirements.



Personal information required by Births Deaths & Marriages



Deceased's Personal Details

First Name(s)

Surname

Residential address

Date of birth

Place of birth

If not born in New Zealand, How long have they lived in NZ?

Descended from New Zealand Maori? Yes No Don't know

Ethnic Group Occupation

NB - Occupation is what they did before retirement (if retired)

Mother's full name

Mother's maiden name Mother's occupation

Father's full name

Father's occupation

Relationship status at present

- Married In a Civil Union Marriage / Civil Union Permanently Separated
 In a De Facto relationship Separated from De Facto partner Marriage / Civil Union Dissolved
 Spouse / Partner deceased Never in a legal relationship

Most recent Marriage / Union

Spouse / Partner full name Age if Living

Spouse / Partner maiden name Deceased's age at marriage

Place of marriage Sex of spouse / partner

If previously married, please fill in the details below

Spouse / Partner full name Age if Living

Spouse / Partner maiden name Deceased's age at marriage

Place of marriage Sex of spouse / partner

Children

Age of Daughter(s)

Age of Son(s)

NB - If deceased, age at death with a D next to the age

Funeral Details



Name and contact details of solicitor (if using one)

Name and contact details of next of kin

Buried

Cremated

Ashes instructions

Plot owned

No

Yes

Cemetery

Plot Ref:

Place of service

Religion

Clergy / Celebrant

Casket

Poems

Music/Hymns

Flowers

Donations

Service live streamed / Recorded

Photographic Tribute

Service sheets

Catering / where

Newspaper notices

[Advocate]

[NZ Herald]

[Other]

Pallbearers

Notes





If you have any questions at all please don't hesitate to give us a call.

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