



**Rose LifeCycle Ceremonies**  
*Celebrating Lives, One Ceremony at a Time.*

## **PLANNING A CELEBRATION OF LIFE CEREMONY**

As your funeral Celebrant, my goal in celebrating the life and honoring the memory of a loved one, is to give your guests a true sense of who your loved one was, to elicit feelings such as "I'm sorry I never met them", "I'm glad I got to know a different side of them." Sharing this time with the loved one's family adds another dimension to what your guests knew of them.

Many times, your memories of a loved one are the most recent ones, memories that might not be so pleasant, memories of them being ill, memories that do not truly represent the essence of their life, or the depth of their life experience. To help you replace those unpleasant memories of your loved one with more pleasant memories of their life, I talk with as many family members as possible, having you share your memories with me. As I listen to your stories, I can give you ideas of how best to convey the essence of your loved one, to truly celebrate their life. Using the stories and ideas you share, I create a unique ceremony that is respectful of your values and beliefs, as well as those of your loved one.

While we do want to focus on celebrating your loved one's life, it is necessary for the grieving process to acknowledge the death, to briefly talk about what that death means to you and your family. Then we can talk about the joys, accomplishments, relationships, and events of your loved one's life. Visuals are helpful in remembering a loved one — photos, videos, prized possessions on display, etc.

When you collaborate with your Celebrant to create a meaningful ceremony, you begin the important work of mourning your loved one. Below is an outline of that collaborative process.

<b>Steps</b>	<b>Family Responsibilities</b>
Setting the scene for the ceremony	Together we will discuss the overall feeling you want for the ceremony. Understanding your preferences will help me create a ceremony which will provide you some comfort. Some questions I might ask include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is the tone you want to set for your ceremony?</li></ul>

	<p>How do you want to feel? How do you want your guests to feel?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you want to involve loved ones in the ceremony? For example, children, parents, grandchildren or friends?</li> <li>• Are there any family, cultural, or religious rituals, elements, or symbols you would like to include in the ceremony?</li> <li>• Do you have any poetry, readings, music, and/or prayers that are significant to you?</li> </ul>
Sharing information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet with me face to face, over the phone, on zoom, and/or via email to share information.</li> </ul>
Ceremony Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ceremony draft will be shared for review in advance of the ceremony; review ceremony draft, providing feedback regarding content as required.</li> <li>• Review and approve any revisions to the ceremony</li> </ul>
Ceremony day	Relax to experience the emotion of the ceremony, knowing it is your chosen tribute for your loved one.

<b>Steps</b>	<b>Celebrant Responsibilities</b>
Setting the scene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial meeting with family representatives to discuss your preferences for the ceremony.</li> </ul>
Securing information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consult with family and other contributors to the ceremony in person, by phone, on zoom, and/or email to elicit your ideas for the ceremony.</li> </ul>
Ceremony design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review information shared for the ceremony.</li> <li>• Follow up as necessary to ensure understanding.</li> <li>• Complete research and prepare the ceremony draft for initial review</li> </ul>
Ceremony review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide designated approver(s) with ceremony draft to review.</li> <li>• Discuss ceremony feedback with approver(s) and revise ceremony accordingly.</li> </ul>
Ceremony planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consult with funeral home, venue staff or other ceremony professionals as needed.</li> <li>• Confirm final details with all ceremony participants.</li> </ul>
Ceremony Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrive 1/2-1 hour in advance of ceremony, as needed.</li> <li>• Guide ceremony preparation activities as required, ensure set up of equipment and memorabilia as planned for the ceremony.</li> <li>• Perform the ceremony.</li> </ul>