



The main purpose of this section is to call attention to the 88 decisions that must be made by a survivor after a death. By making these important decisions now, you can minimize the emotional strain that will be placed on your survivors.

88 THINGS THAT MUST BE DONE BY THE SURVIVOR

* Indicates details that can be planned for or pre-paid **ahead of time.**

A) Secure Vital Statistics (Required for burial permit.)

- *1. Name, home address and telephone no.
- *2. How long in state
- *3. Name of business, address and telephone no.
- *4. Occupation and title
- *5. Social Security No.
- *6. War veterans serial no.
- *7. Date of birth
- *8. Place of birth
- *9. U.S. citizen
- *10. Father's name
- *11. Father's birthplace
- *12. Mother's maiden name
- *13. Mother's birthplace
- *14. Religious name (if any)

B) Pay some or all of the following

- *15. Family burial estate
- *16. Memorials
- *17. Funeral director
- *18. Interment service or cremation fee
- 19. Clergy
- 20. Florist
- 21. Clothing
- 22. Transportation
- 23. Telephone
- 24. Food
- 25. Doctors
- 26. Nurses
- 27. Hospitals and ambulance
- 28. Medicine and drugs
- 29. Other current & urgent bills (mortgage or rent, taxes, installment payments)

C) Collect Documents (required to establish rights for insurance, pensions, Social Security, ownership, relationship, etc.)

- *30. Will
- *31. Legal proof of age or birth certificate
- *32. Social Security card or number
- *33. Marriage license
- *34. Citizenship papers
- *35. Insurance policies (life, health & accident, property)
- *36. Bank books
- *37. Deeds to property
- *38. Bill of Sale of car
- *39. Income tax returns, receipts or cancelled checks
- *40. Veterans discharge certificate
- *41. Disability claims
- *42. Memorial Park Certificate of Ownership

D) Decide and Arrange within a Few Hours

- *43. Burial or cremation
- *44. Burial estate location and which space to open
- *45. Memorial type and inscription
- *46. Casket type (if any)
- 47. Clothing for deceased

D. Decisions (continued ...)

- *48. Vault or sectional crypt
- *49. Type of service (religious, military, fraternal)
- 50. Special selection from scriptures
- 51. Clergy to officiate
- 52. Which funeral director
- *53. Place where service is to be held
- 54. Time for funeral service
- 55. Decide name of charitable organization to which donations are suggested in memory of the deceased
- 56. Providing information for eulogy
- 57. Select names for pall-bearers
- 58. Flowers
- 59. Music
- 60. Clothing for you and children
- 61. Preparation at home, including food for family and guests
- 62. Extra chairs
- 63. Transportation for family and guests, including planning funeral car list
- 64. Checking and signing necessary papers for burial permit
- *65. Providing vital statistics about deceased to newspapers
- *66. Providing addresses and telephone nos. for all interested people
- 67. Answering innumerable sympathetic phone calls, messages, emails and letters
- 68. Meeting and talking with funeral director, cemetery representative, clergy about all details
- 69. Greeting all friends and relatives who call
- 70. Arranging for meeting relatives who arrive from out of state at airport.
- 71. Providing lodging for out-of-town relatives
- 72. Make list of callers and floral tributes sent for mailing card of thanks
- *73. Arranging for special religious services
- *74. Check the Will regarding special wishes
- 75. Order death certificate
- 76. Look after minor children

E) Notify as soon as possible

- 77. The doctor or doctors
- 78. The funeral director
- 79. The memorial park
- 80. All relatives
- 81. All friends
- 82. Employer of deceased
- 83. Employers of relatives not going to work
- 84. Casket-bearers
- 85. Insurance agents (Life, Health, & Accident)
- 86. Religious, fraternal, civic, veterans organizations, unions
- 87. Newspapers regarding notices
- 88. Attorney, accountant or executor of estate