



# What Happens If You Don't Share Your Wishes?

By Eve Gibbons, Business Leader, (Cemetery Manager) Carr Villa Memorial Park

It's a conversation many families avoid.

Not because they don't care, but because it feels uncomfortable, or because there is an assumption there will be more time.

Over the years, both as a former Funeral Director and now as Cemetery Manager, I have seen what happens when no instructions are left. Families gather with the best intentions, wanting to honour their loved one well. But without clear guidance, simple decisions can become difficult ones.

Should it be burial or cremation? Where should the ashes go? Would they have wanted a large funeral service or something private and simple?

When people are already navigating grief, uncertainty can add pressure. Sometimes there are differing opinions. Sometimes there is silence because no one feels confident to decide. And occasionally, families carry the weight of wondering for years whether they made the "right" choice.

Most of the time, conflict is not the issue. It's uncertainty.

Clear instructions don't remove grief. But they do remove doubt.

Planning does not have to be formal or complicated. It can begin with a conversation. A note. A shared understanding.

The greatest gift you can leave your family is clarity, so that when the time comes, they are not guessing. They are simply carrying out your wishes with confidence and love.

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