

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance for Families Who May Not Be Able to Attend A Funeral

At the present time, due to the coronavirus pandemic, sadly many families will not be able to have the choices they normally would around funeral arrangements. This means that many adults, children, and young people will not be able to attend the funeral of a loved one during this time.

Advice around funerals is constantly being updated and you can find the latest advice here: <https://nafd.org.uk/funeral-advice>.

As adults we are all finding it difficult to accept that the traditional funeral may not be possible at this time and so it is important to consider other ways of being able to say goodbye, share memorials and pay respects to the person who has died.

The following link takes you to a helpful resource about funerals. Please note **number 5** on the list has many ideas for alternatives if you cannot attend or hold a service.

<https://quakersocialaction.org.uk/we-can-help/helping-funerals/down-earth/coronavirus-organising-meaningful-funeral>

Including Children in Memorial Services

We know that some families may normally have questions about whether children should attend a funeral. **CHUMS** often advise parents and carers that they know their children best; there is no right or wrong. However, from our experience it can often be helpful for children to be included if they would like to be, as long as they are given preparation beforehand as to what to expect.

For some children, especially younger ones, they may need some simple and basic information about what a funeral or memorial service is.

At present due to the coronavirus pandemic it may be that those choices are limited, and it may not be possible for children and young people to attend. However, there are several ways to still have a special and meaningful memorial service.



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Some people may choose to hold a memorial service at a later date for people who have sadly died during this period. This can give families time to carefully plan a special service and can include children and young people's input and wishes.

For others it may be important to participate from home at the same time as a funeral is held. This may be done by live streaming, video calling family and friends in other places to enable them to participate and share together.

It may be that families can:

- Light a candle
- Have a photograph displayed
- Choose a poem
- Choose a piece of music
- Write or record a tribute to be shared about the person who has died
- Draw pictures

Support

CHUMS is still delivering all services, albeit we are now working remotely and conducting appointments, 1:1 sessions and groups virtually online or via telephone.

If you have any queries, please make contact via our usual email address: info@chums.uk.com
Our admin team will get back to you in due course.

Please have a look on **CHUMS** website for suggestions for helpful books and our online referral form if additional support is required www.chums.uk.com

PLEASE NOTE: **CHUMS** is not an urgent response service, therefore, if you feel that a child or young person is at immediate risk to themselves or others, please contact your GP, A&E department or call **NHS 111**.



CHUMS

Mental Health &
Emotional Wellbeing Service

Telephone Number

01622 427300

For online referrals visit:

www.chums.uk.com/referral