



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 and 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; 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://bit.ly/2WsGPC6>

Including children in memorial services

We know that some families may normally have questions about whether children should attend a funeral. CHUMS often advises 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 (COVID–19) 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.

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

CHUMS Support:

CHUMS is still delivering all services, albeit we are now working remotely and conducting appointments, engagements and calls 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.

All voicemails are still being picked up by our admin team, but please be aware this is not constantly monitored. All calls that are picked up will be answered in due course.

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.



Mental Health and Emotional
Wellbeing Service for Children
and Young People

Bedfordshire

0330 0581 653

Peterborough

0330 0581 657

Huntingdon & Cambridgeshire

0330 0581 659

For on-line referrals visit:

www.chums.uk.com/refer