

Guide to Writing Your Own Obituary

Compiled by Ronni Sanlo, Ed.D.

www.ronnisanlo.com

ronnisanlo@gmail.com

- The following list is meant to be a general guide to help you determine what to include in your obituary. Simply choose what you'd like to include and reorder the information as desired.

NAME / ANNOUNCEMENT

- Full name of the deceased, including nickname, if any
- Age at death
- Residence (for example, the name of the city) at death
- Day, date, and year of death
- Place of death
- Cause of death

LIFE

- Date of birth
- Place of birth
- Names of parents
- Childhood: siblings, stories, schools, friends
- Marriage(s): date, place, name of spouse
- Education: school, college, university, etc.
- Designations, awards, and other recognitions
- Employment: jobs, activities, stories, colleagues, promotions, successes, frustrations
- Military service
- Places of residence
- Hobbies, sports, interests, activities, etc.
- Affiliations: charitable, religious, fraternal, political, etc.
- Achievements
- Disappointments
- Unusual attributes, humor or other stories
- Relationships good and bad

FAMILY

- Survived by (and place of residence):
- Spouse
- Children (in order of birth date, and their spouses)
- Grandchildren
- Great-grandchildren
- Great-great-grandchildren
- Parents

- Grandparents
- Siblings (in order of birth date)
- Other family: nephews, nieces, cousins, in-laws, etc.
- Friends
- Pets
- Predeceased by (and date of death):
 - Spouse
 - Children (in order of birth date)
 - Grandchildren
 - Siblings (in order of birth date)
 - Other family: nephews, nieces, cousins, in-laws, etc.
 - Pets

FUNERAL/MEMORIAL SERVICE

- Day, date, time, place
- Name of officiant, pallbearers, honorary pallbearers, other information
- Visitation: day, date, time, place
- Reception: day, date, time, place
- Other memorial, vigil, or graveside services: day, date, time, place
- Place of interment
- Name of funeral home
- Where to call for more information
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CLOSING

- Memorial funds established
- Memorial donation suggestions, including addresses
- Thank-you to people, groups, institutions, etc.
- Quotation or poem
- Three words that sum up your life

Ronni Sanlo, Ed.D.

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Women's Writing Retreats

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