

I Don’t Want a Funeral.

Okay. So What DO You Want?

You’ve probably said it before: “Just throw me in a pine box,” or “Don’t make a big fuss.”
We hear you. You don’t want a stuffy room, wilted flowers, or a rigid ceremony. But saying “do nothing” leaves the people you love with an empty canvas at the exact moment they need guidance.
This guide is here to help you reimagine what a goodbye can look like—on your terms.

Hoffmann Schneider & Kitchen
FUNERAL HOME • CREMATORY • PREPLANNING
Because We Care

The Unintended Weight of “Don’t Bother”

When grief arrives, it arrives with force. People naturally crave a “container”—something that gives them permission to gather, cry, share stories, and feel less alone.

Your Intention

I want to save my family money, stress, and the awkwardness of a traditional service.

The Reality

Without instructions, your family is paralyzed by guesswork. Siblings disagree. Someone feels guilty for wanting a gathering; someone else worries about violating your wishes.

Helpful Tip: Refusing a funeral isn’t about refusing to be remembered—it’s about refusing to be remembered in a way that feels inauthentic to who you were.

A Gathering Doesn’t Have to Look Like a Funeral

A traditional funeral is just one version of a goodbye. It happens to be the one we grew up seeing, but it is far from your only option. What your family actually needs isn’t a casket and a guest book. They need a shared story. They need a reason to come together.

The real gift you can give the people who love you isn’t silence. It’s direction.

What Does “Your” Goodbye Look Like?



The Beach Bonfire

Craft beer, a curated playlist, and an open invitation to anyone who loved you.



The Backyard Dinner Party

Built around your favorite comfort recipes, where the table talk naturally turns to memory and laughter.



The Meaningful Hike

A walk to a favorite trail or scenic spot, followed by scattering ashes and an afternoon of storytelling.

The Quiet Cremation + Toast

A simple direct cremation handled privately, with a family toast scheduled weeks or months later when everyone is ready.

Step 1: Design the Feeling

You don't need to plan every detail or fill out complex legal documents. Start by thinking about what you actually want people to feel when they gather. That feeling becomes the compass for your family.

When my family gathers, I want them to feel:

.....

.....

.....

e.g., Relieved? Connected? Free to laugh? Comforted?

The general “vibe” I want is:

.....

.....

.....

.....

e.g., Casual, celebratory, quiet, adventurous, intimate

Questions to Ask: Are there people you’d want in the room—or a room you’d want them to skip entirely in favor of a casual setting?

Step 2: The Personal Details

Think about what would feel undeniably true to who you are. What would make your friends smile and say, “That is so them”?

The Place: Is there a location that matters to you? (A local brewery, a park, your backyard, the mountains?)

.....

.....

The Soundtrack: Is there music that fits your life better than a traditional hymn?

.....

.....

The Menu: Is there a specific food, drink, or recipe you'd want shared?

.....

.....

How to Leave Your Direction

You don’t have to answer every single question. Even answering just one of them out loud—or tucking a note somewhere findable—changes everything for your loved ones.

1.
Write it down

Use these worksheets or write a simple letter.

2.
Keep it accessible

Don’t hide it in a safe deposit box. Put it with your important papers or give a copy to a trusted family member.

3.
Have the conversation

Share your thoughts casually over coffee or dinner. Shift your message from “don’t do anything” to “here is what would mean a lot to me.”

Things to Consider: Taking a small amount of ownership over your exit plan lifts the guesswork off your family. It gives them permission to grieve and gather without guilt.



It’s Just Love, With a Little Planning.

Most people who say they don’t want a funeral are genuinely trying to make things easier for those they leave behind. The intention is kind. By writing down a few thoughts, you turn a blank slate into a lasting gift. Whatever happens after you’re gone will carry a trace of you in it.

Ready to get these wishes down on paper, or curious about simple cremation and gathering options? We are here to help you navigate it with zero pressure and complete respect for your unique style. Reach out to us today.

Hoffmann Schneider & Kitchen
FUNERAL HOME • CREMATORY • PREPLANNING
Because We Care
563-582-5222