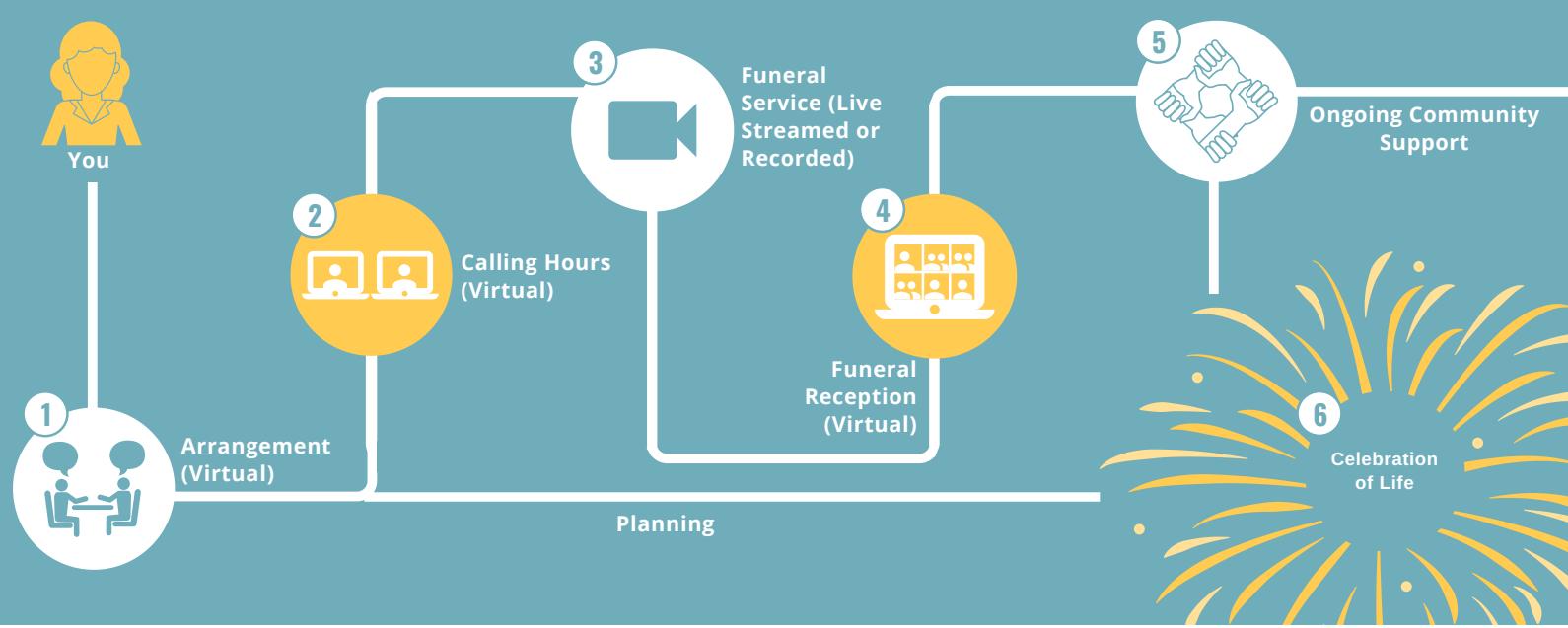


# Memorial Events During Coronavirus

COVID-19 has drastically changed the ways grieving families can mourn and receive support from friends and relatives. Only holding a live-streamed funeral service, or pushing the service back until the end of social distancing, risks families being isolated from the support they need over the first few months after a loss. With some creativity, technology, and the help of the community, you can help the family get the support they need.

And while it's unclear when social distancing will end, this 'in between' time is an opportunity for families to plan for a spectacular future Celebration of Life event.

Find detailed how-to's & additional ideas for each step of the process in the free expanded resource guide [here](#).



## Arrangement

Give comfort that their community can come together to remember and support each other in different but wonderful ways

1



- Hold in-person arrangements in a room large enough to accommodate social distancing & suggest including additional family members via video conference
- Hold virtual arrangements with an off-the-shelf video calling tool that allows for screen sharing, like Zoom, Google Hangouts, or Skype
- Review the [NFDA recommendations](#) on working with families at this time

See [Chapter 1](#) in guide for details

## Calling Hours

2



Use video conferencing to allow people to pay their respects

- Effectively mimic a traditional receiving line / calling hours, allowing the family to receive condolences from their community during a defined period of time
- Use [Gruveo](#), a 1-click video conferencing tool with a virtual "queue"
- Create an account for your funeral home & add your branding, then create a "user" for each family and generate a unique link for people to call them at
- Gruveo is currently free for the first 45 days, and very inexpensive after

See [Chapter 2](#) in guide for details

# Funeral Service

Hold a timely funeral service however you are equipped to do so

3



- Live-stream the service if you can, record it if you can't
- If your website can't host the recorded service, embed on a 3rd party memorial site like [LifeWeb 360](#) or [Tukios](#)
- Get set up for livestreaming ASAP with one of these [service providers](#)
- Get creative to help the family feel the support of those not physically in the room / at the cemetery with them:
  - Read statements from those watching at home as part of the service
  - Tie white balloons to the backs of chairs with notes or photos from those watching at home to let the physical room feel as full as the virtual one
  - Ask people to line the route to the cemetery w/ signs or wear a specific color

See [Chapter 3](#) in guide for details

## Funeral Reception

4



Simulate a reception or wake, allowing those that watched the live-streamed service to be together virtually & share stories

- Use [Zoom Pro](#) for necessary functionality - \$15 / mo, & many other use cases for you
- Use a Zoom 'waiting room' to protect against Zoom trolls (sadly a new trend)
- Distribute this 'how to join a virtual memorial' [Zoom guide](#) to attendees in advance
- Designate an emcee, technical helper, and speakers in advance, then open the "floor"
- Record the event & download the "chat" as keepsakes for the family

**Note:** Some families may prefer this style of event for the funeral service, where all participants can "attend" together in a virtual room, instead of service live streamed one-way to those at home

See [Chapter 4](#) in guide for details

## Ongoing Community Support

5



Encourage friends & relatives to 'show up' for the family during this period of social isolation

- Encourage the community to call, send cards, & share condolences on your website
- Start a collaborative memorial scrapbook, like [LifeWeb 360](#), that friends & relatives can add stories and photos to as a gift to the family and self-organize tributes
- Organize a community vigil like lighting a candle at the same time, and create a hashtag for sharing on social media

See [Chapter 5](#) in guide for details

6

## Future Celebration of Life Event

Use this time help the family plan a second memorial event for when restrictions on gatherings end

- Think of the Celebration of Life as more wedding than funeral service:
  - Attendees may be in a very different emotional state than the funeral
  - You'll have months to plan - consider consulting an [event planner](#)
  - Choose a unique, & sufficiently large, venue - you may have a high number of attendees given the extra time to make travel plans
- Pick a special date like their birthday or anniversary, or create a new one
- Use this time to add special touches - photos, artwork, create a song, etc.

See [Chapter 6](#) in guide for details

Guide brought to you by [LifeWeb 360](#) and [New Narrative Memorials](#)

**LifeWeb 360** - Memorial scrapbooks built by your friends & family. Engage the community to support the family for the long term.



**New Narrative Memorials** - Event planning and consulting firm specializing in unique Celebrations of Life.

NEW NARRATIVE