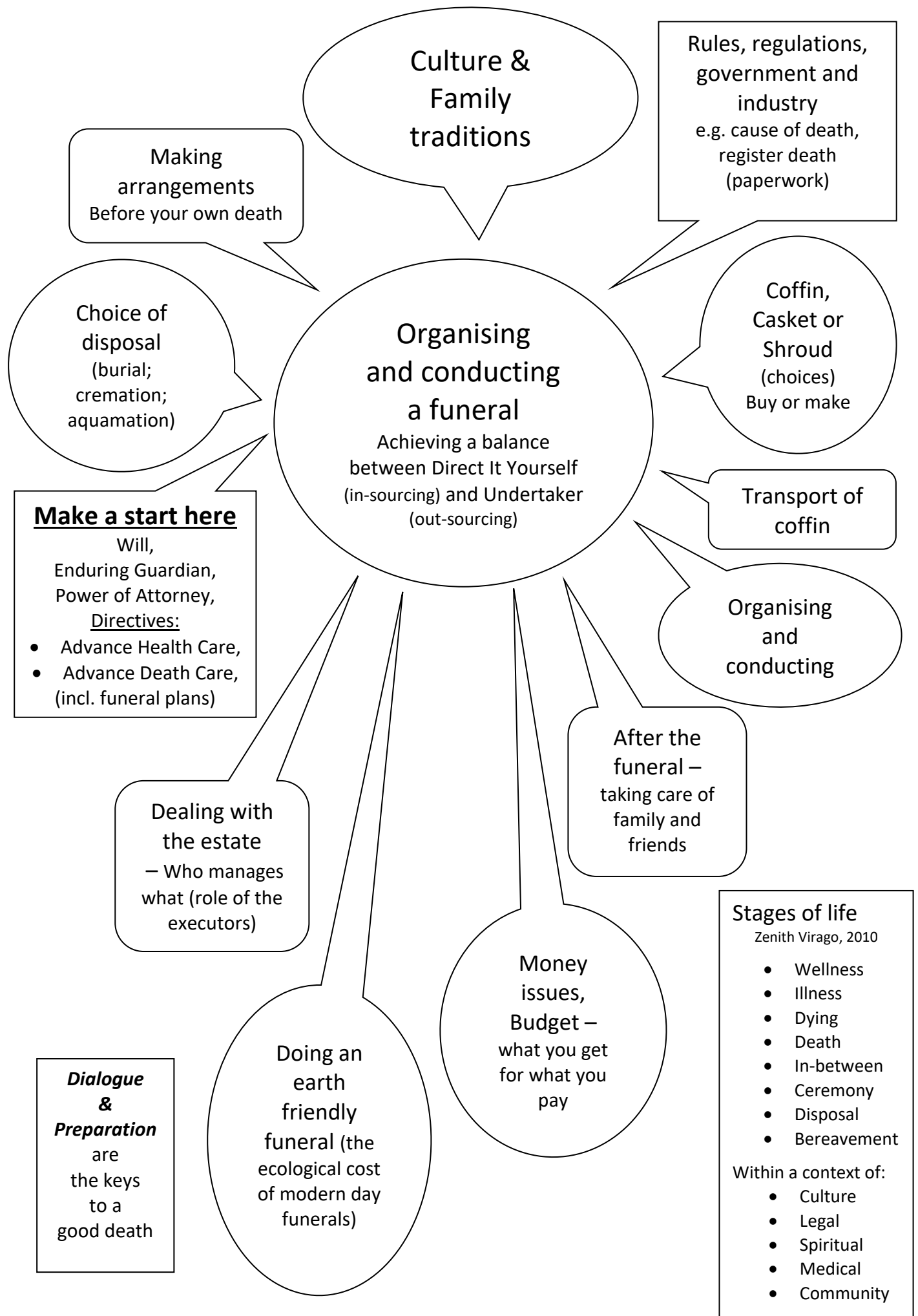


10+ things funeral directors don't tell us

<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The body can be kept at home: when a loved one dies at home, you don't have to call the funeral director. You can keep the body at home as part of saying goodbye.2. You can take the body home: when a loved one dies in a hospital or nursing home, you can collect the body and take it home.3. You can be your own funeral director: it is not necessary to employ someone to make funeral arrangements.4. It's a good idea to know how the funeral industry works: a Melbourne lawyer, Robert Larkin, has written a book titled: <i>Funeral Rights: What the death care industry doesn't want you to know</i>.5. Funeral insurance can cost heaps: it's best to steer clear of this method of paying for a funeral. The premiums can add up to much more than what the funeral will cost.6. Funeral Directors have a monopoly on the sale of coffins and caskets: Coffins are usually sold as part of a packet deal. The upselling of these items as a means of dressing up the appearance of a funeral is more about company image than customer needs. It's a way of controlling the market.7. You can make your own coffin or casket: coffins are not hard to make. You can make your own or have one made by a carpenter or Men's Shed or a Coffin Club.8. Floral arrangements can be done by the family: flowers from a family or community garden can pay a lovely tribute to a dearly departed loved one.9. Funeral Directors are a law unto themselves: there is no state or federal law governing the funeral industry. They are self-regulated by way of self appointed associations. But, there is no obligation to be a member of an association.10. You can't appeal to a tribunal or ombudsman: The industry sets its own rules and judges whether or not they are being adhered to.11. An undertaker and / or mortician: the title Funeral Director is a recent name invented by the industry, as part of the marketing strategy	<p>to give the appearance of being more than a body minder, transport operator and event manager.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">12. Organising funerals is not rocket science: we follow some well established protocols that are well within the capacity of most people to do. Indeed for centuries families buried their dead without calling on the services of a third party.13. You would be wise to take another person with you when choosing a funeral director: there are some hard sell lines to be aware of, like ... "Given your position in the community ...," "I'm sure you want what's best for your mother," and so on.14. A funeral is an event: just like a wedding or 70th birthday party. The only difference is that it's about a life lived, rather than a life being lived. So a funeral director could well be described as an event manager.15. A bank account is the best way to set aside money to pay for funeral expenses: pre-paid funeral are often not as good as the marketing spiel suggests.16. More than 70% of cemeteries and crematoria in NSW are owned and operated by private companies or quasi-government Trusts: The fees and charges are often much higher than at local council operated cemeteries.17. When the funeral industry couldn't stop cardboard coffins being used by claiming they weren't safe or didn't meet basic standards , they bought out the company: The industry now control a large part of the cardboard coffin sales on the market. <p>References:</p> <p>How much do funerals cost? CHOICE https://www.choice.com.au/health-and-body/healthy-ageing/ageing-and-retirement/articles/funerals-investigation-how-much-do-funerals-cost</p> <p>Ten facts. https://weekslawfirm.com/10-facts-funeral-directors-dont-want-you-to-know/</p> <p>Do you need a funeral director: CHOICE https://www.choice.com.au/health-and-body/healthy-ageing/ageing-and-retirement/articles/funerals-investigation-do-you-need-a-funeral-director</p> <p>The future of funerals: natural burial, DIY coffins https://www.choice.com.au/health-and-body/healthy-ageing/ageing-and-retirement/articles/funerals-investigation-the-future-of-funerals</p>
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Culture & Family traditions

Rules, regulations, government and industry
e.g. cause of death, register death (paperwork)

Making arrangements
Before your own death

Coffin, Casket or Shroud (choices)
Buy or make

Choice of disposal (burial; cremation; aquamation)

Organising and conducting a funeral
Achieving a balance between Direct It Yourself (in-sourcing) and Undertaker (out-sourcing)

Transport of coffin

Make a start here
Will,
Enduring Guardian,
Power of Attorney,
Directives:
• Advance Health Care,
• Advance Death Care, (incl. funeral plans)

Organising and conducting

Dealing with the estate
– Who manages what (role of the executors)

After the funeral – taking care of family and friends

Money issues, Budget – what you get for what you pay

Doing an earth friendly funeral (the ecological cost of modern day funerals)

Dialogue & Preparation are the keys to a good death

Stages of life
Zenith Virago, 2010

- Wellness
- Illness
- Dying
- Death
- In-between
- Ceremony
- Disposal
- Bereavement

Within a context of:

- Culture
- Legal
- Spiritual
- Medical
- Community