How do I find a Celebrant?

Normally when you engage a Funeral Director they will contact a celebrant on your behalf but you are free to contact us via our website www.humanism.scot or our central ceremonies line 0300 302 0680. You may know the celebrant you would like and can contact them directly or more commonly can advise your Funeral Director of this. Should your Funeral Director be arranging your celebrant please specify that you wish to have one from the Humanist Society Scotland: the longest standing and largest provider of humanist ceremonies in Scotland and also the national charity for humanists.

‘Everything was seen to with no hassle or fuss – it was plain sailing, which was a great relief for the whole family.’

Advance Wishes

Many people give thought to their funeral, including the type of ceremony they would like and how they would like their life to be celebrated. If you have been thinking about your own funeral, and want to explore options or record your preference for a Humanist ceremony conducted by an HSS Registered Celebrant, you may find our Advance Funeral Wishes form helpful, which you find in the Ceremonies section of our website www.humanism.scot

You may also find it helpful to meet with a local HSS Registered Celebrant to discuss your thoughts and wishes.

‘You truly expressed everything I wanted to say and you did it in such a nice way it was very comforting’

Humanist Society Scotland

Humanist Society Scotland (HSS) is the national charity working for an ethical, rational, secular society which is fair and compassionate. We have over 15000 members across Scotland helping us campaign for a fairer world. We have an active school visitors programme, we support those who are homeless through our T-Run and work internationally to stand up for Human Rights. As the longest standing provider of humanist ceremonies in Scotland we support and coordinate our nation’s largest and best known group of Humanist Celebrants.

W: www.humanism.scot
E: ceremonies@humanism.scot
T: 0300 302 0680
Celebrating Lives & Legacies

Humanist funerals offer a dignified and personal way to celebrate a life; they are warm, compassionate and meaningful.

We know that death can be a sad and difficult time and a funeral or memorial ceremony is important for family and friends to focus their thoughts on the person who has died. A Humanist ceremony brings people together to share their sadness but also to celebrate the life lived and the memories that live on.

Humanist Society Scotland Registered Celebrants conduct thousands of funeral and memorial ceremonies every year. Each ceremony is as unique as the life it celebrates.

‘Our Celebrant was excellent – she spent a long time with my family, gathering information about my mum, her life and her loves – that was a very happy afternoon with lots of tears and laughter too.’

What’s different about a Humanist Ceremony?

It is important that a funeral or memorial ceremony is a reflection of the person who has died and is right for their close family. A fitting celebration of someone’s life is an incredibly meaningful way to say farewell and can be a great comfort.

Humanist ceremonies place the life lived at their centre, with stories and memories that make them authentic and true to the life they are celebrating. Often Humanist ceremonies include the lighter stories from someone’s life, enabling the ceremony to be well balanced with the right touch of humour where appropriate.

Humanist funerals and memorials may also include readings, poetry and music appropriate for a non-religious ceremony. In addition there may be a moment of quiet reflection so everyone can think about the person who has died in the way that best fits with their own beliefs.

Many kind words are often shared after a Humanist ceremony about how fitting the tribute has been and how it was ‘just right’.

‘Having a humanist do the funeral just made it so personal to his life and that’s why we wanted it.’

How is a Humanist Funeral arranged?

If you would like a Humanist funeral or memorial to celebrate a life lived please ask your Funeral Director for a Humanist Society Scotland Registered Celebrant.

Once this is arranged your Celebrant will meet with you to find out as much as they can about the person who has died. This time is spent talking about the memories and stories which made your relative or friend unique and about how you would like them remembered. You may also discuss any music, readings or poems you would like included and any contributions there may be during the ceremony from family or friends. Your Celebrant is trained and experienced and will gently guide you through the process.

Following this meeting, your Celebrant will weave together your stories and memories with any music, poetry and readings to craft a beautiful, touching and meaningful tribute. Your Celebrant will share a copy of the ceremony in advance to ensure it is a sincere reflection of the person who has died that allows you and others to say farewell in just the right way. After the ceremony you will receive your own copy of the final tribute.

How is payment arranged?

Your Funeral Director will normally handle your Celebrant’s fee. If you are arranging your Celebrant directly they will confirm their fee with you. For conducting the funeral or memorial ceremony of a child or young person under the age of sixteen years, there is no fee if you use a Humanist Society Scotland Registered Celebrant.

All HSS Registered Celebrants contribute part of their fee to Humanist Society Scotland to enable the charity to continue its work towards a fairer and more compassionate society. Every ceremony conducted by an HSS Registered Celebrant makes a difference to the world we live in.

‘Your words helped me through a most difficult time.’

Why choose an HSS Registered Celebrant?

We believe an HSS Registered Celebrant is the right choice because:

- they have been carefully selected as the best people to represent our charity
- they have completed an extensive training and mentoring programme
- they work to a code of conduct and the highest of standards
- they are committed to ensuring that the celebration of the life lived is sincere and compassionate
- you will receive a professional and personal service
- they have the backing of a national charity; when you book an HSS Registered Celebrant, so have you