

Guide to Writing an Obituary



There are common sections of an obituary. We offer the information below as a guide when preparing a family member's death announcement. You may choose to include or exclude any information deemed important:

Announcement of Death:

Name, age and place of residence, date and place of death, and cause of death.

Example:

Margaret "Peggy" Smith (nee Miller), 87, of Burlington, NJ, passed away November 1, 2020 at home with her family by her side after a courageous battle with cancer.

Biographical Sketch:

- Date, place of birth, and names of parents.
- Education, work experience, awards, accomplishments, hobbies, and passions.

Example:

Peggy was born on July 31, 1953 in Houston, TX to Robert and Jane (Bush) Miller. She received her law degree from the University of Texas in Austin in 1981, and worked for LaSalle University for 21 years in Philadelphia.

Peggy had a passion for painting. She also loved to bird watch, and she combined her two favorite hobbies to create extraordinary art. Her paintings of various birds were much admired not only by friends and family, but also by all who frequented the coffee shops where her paintings were displayed. She was also an avid music lover and a collector of Beatles memorabilia. She was known for her quick wit, her infectious smile, and her kind and compassionate spirit.

Family

Spouse, Children, Parents (living or predeceased), grandchildren, other relatives, special friends, and pets.

Example:

On May 28, 1975, Peggy married Lewis Smith. They raised two sons, Nick (Nancy) and Joel, and two daughters, Alice (Robert) Brown and Lisa Smith. Along with her husband and children, Jane is survived by three grandchildren and her sister, Amy Miller.

Funeral information:

- Viewing information: Day, date, time, and place
- Other memorial or vigil, if applicable: day, date, time and place
- Place of inurnment, Where to call for more information (even if no service planned)
- Memorial Contributions: *If you choose to list Journey Hospice, please include the following information: *Journey Hospice, 3 Manhattan Dr., Burlington, NJ 08019* or *donate online at journeyhospicenj.org/donate*. Or choose an organization that is important to your loved one.

Example:

A memorial service will be held in Murphy Funeral Home, 8 Main Street, Newtown on Monday, November 10, 2020. Interment will follow in the Hampton National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Journey Hospice, 3 Manhattan Dr., Burlington, NJ 08019 or www.journeyhospicenj.org/donate.