

Viewing

Lychgate Funerals supporting families

Health

In case you wondered, if the body has been embalmed (the usual practice in New Zealand) there is no health risk. During embalming and preparation, our staff follow strict hygiene guidelines so there is no health risk attached to viewing the body.

Additional help and information

We trust that it is comforting to know we are here to help you cope with your grief and assist in any way we can. We are available for a chat, or can lend you various books which may provide the help or comfort you need. We can also refer you to a support person or agency, to further discuss your feelings about the death of someone close to you.



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Caring for you and your family in your time of need

In many cultures around the world seeing a friend or relative after death is a very normal and valuable part of the grieving process. As such, it is becoming much more the practice here in New Zealand.



Spending time together

Perhaps it is helpful to think of it like this. If a person were taken ill suddenly, family and friends would gather to give support and encouragement. This would be just as true if the person were in a coma and unable to communicate in any way. It's the same when someone dies. Relatives and friends find great comfort in spending time with the deceased.

Accepting what has happened

Death is sometimes a hard thing to accept and especially when it is someone close to you. Seeing the person peacefully in death can help that acceptance.

Fatal injuries

Even when death was the result of an accident and the deceased was visibly injured, viewing still provides great comfort. If things were different and the person had survived we would still visit regardless of the extent of the injuries. So it can be just as appropriate to view when the person has died.

Preparation

We will look after everything. This includes embalming so that the deceased is preserved throughout the period between death and cremation or burial.

Some things you can do

What many families do is supply the deceased's clothing (and glasses if appropriate), as this provides a more familiar appearance to the deceased. If you wish, you may have the deceased taken to your home. This can be for a few hours or the days prior to the funeral. This is easily arranged. Alternatively the deceased can stay in the viewing lounge at our funeral home, until the funeral.

Words of farewell

Grief is not a state, it is a process. Funerals are ways by which people may express their grief and start working through that healing process; viewing is very much part of the process. Often there are words people would like to say quietly to the deceased and viewing allows this to be done. It also helps people accept that life has left the body — the person we have known is now kept in our memories. Indeed, it helps us to understand that the final burial or cremation is not of the person we knew, but of the body our relative or friend used to inhabit.

Further comfort

Some people also find it a comfort to place a small memento — a photograph, for instance, or a letter — inside the casket. Children might want to draw a picture or place a flower into the casket.

