



**Informing others**  
**of your loved one's passing**



## What is an obituary and why is it written?

An obituary is a written announcement of a person's death. It also highlights some of that person's important life events and shares details of the funeral or memorial service. Historically obituaries have been published in local newspapers, but we now see them published online more frequently.

## Who writes the obituary?

An obituary is usually written by a family member or close friend.

## How long should it be?

Obituaries are relatively short. Most obituaries are around 200 words, but some can be as long as 1,000 words.

## What should be included in the obituary?

**List basic details about the death:** The main purpose of an obituary is to inform others of your loved one's passing, so you should begin with basics. Families may choose to mention the reason behind their loved one's death. For example, they may refer to the person's brave battle against cancer or provide details of a tragic event. However, this information is optional and personal, and you should only include it if all family members are okay with sharing these details.

① Typically, obituaries mention:

- Full name
- Place and date of birth
- Place and date of death

**Highlight significant life events:** Mentioning your loved one's significant life events is a way to pay tribute to their memory. Following a chronological order can help you recount the momentous milestones that defined your loved one's life.

② Things and events that are typically included are:

- Educational achievements
- Professional milestones
- Marriage and family details
- Hobbies and interests
- Militarily or community service
- Eye, organ and tissue donation

## What should be included in the obituary? (continued)

**③ Reference surviving family members:** The next section of the obituary lists the surviving family members and loved ones of the person who died. If the person has any immediate family members who have died before them, you can also include those names.

**④ Add a prayer, quote or special message:** Sometimes a quote or prayer encapsulates your grief in ways you can't express. Feel free to choose a short prayer or special message to celebrate the person's memory if you aren't limited to a word count.

**⑤ Choose a photo of the deceased:** If you plan to include a photo, choose a high-quality headshot of your loved one. It can be a past or recent picture. If you cannot find a headshot, you may be able to use a profile picture from your loved one's social media.

**⑥ Provide details of the funeral or memorial service:** Finally, list the time, date and address of your loved one's funeral or memorial service. You can also list any special requests for the service at the end of the obituary. Some families choose to donate to a charity in lieu of flowers, so let people know in advance.

## Getting Started

For ideas on how best to define your loved one, start by trying to answer these questions. Take some time to reflect on these answers or ask other family members and friends for their insights. The responses you collect will help bring life to your loved one's obituary.

- What are three words you'd use to describe your loved one?
- What memory or memories stand out the most to you?
- What are some of the life events and achievements they were most proud of?
- What did they like to do in their free time?
- What did you love most about them?
- What made them unique?
- Would they be happy with their obituary photo?

## Additional Tips

If you are feeling stuck, or having a difficult time getting started there are plenty of free resources\* available online to help. A few of those include:

- **Legacy**: Legacy uses AI technology to take the information you provide and create an obituary you can edit for tone and length.
- **Ever Loved**: Ever Loved provides more guidance for composing an obituary, as well as several templates to help get you started.
- **Quick Funeral**: Access and download over 100 obituary templates.

*\*Links are for informational purposes only. Eversight does not endorse, nor are we affiliated with any of the organizations listed.*

## About us

Eversight is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our mission is to restore sight and prevent blindness through the healing power of donation, transplantation and research.

Operating in Arizona, Connecticut, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio and South Korea, Eversight works in collaboration with surgeons, researchers, academic medical centers and eye banks across the United States and abroad. In addition to recovering, evaluating and providing donated eye tissue for sight-restoring transplants and promoting public donation awareness, we advance research into the causes and cures of blinding eye conditions and provide humanitarian aid to people around the world in need of corneal transplantation.

Join the Eversight community. Change the lives of those who are losing their sight or are blind, and the future for millions more all over the world through research into treatment and cures.



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