

The Celebrant Accord

The role of a funeral celebrant is to serve the bereaved and their community by creating and leading a fitting, personal, and respectful funeral ceremony. Their work should clearly reflect the person who has died, respect their belief system, acknowledge and give time to their community of family and friends, and create an environment in which the grieving process can be held and supported.

An excellent celebrant:

1. Is professional

- They are easy to contact, friendly, approachable, and communicate well with fellow professionals. They are prompt, reliable, efficient and organised. They remain open and empathetic, at the same time as recognising the boundaries that need to be in place to lead the funeral appropriately.
- They have good computer and IT skills, that support effective communication and produce professional looking scripts that can be offered as keepsakes.
- They are GDPR aware and compliant; work confidentially, and have Personal Liability Insurance and Indemnity Insurance.

2. Cares for their clients

- They offer to visit clients at home, and give as much time as is needed.
- They are inclusive, flexible and non-judgmental.
- They engender trust through openness, sensitivity and confidentiality.
- They are willing to involve family and friends in creating the funeral, and willing to send all or part of the script for approval before the funeral.
- They meet and greet their clients at the venue, and are available immediately after the funeral ceremony.
- They understand that a successful funeral is one that serves and supports the bereaved.

3. Is calm and shows natural leadership

- They have a calm and reassuring presence, providing gentle leadership without seeking to be the centre of attention.
- They are a clear, confident and engaging speaker with a range of pace and intonation.
- They are responsive to what is happening in the room and the environment, can think on their feet, and adapt where necessary.
- They are well groomed and appropriately dressed.

4. Writes unique ceremonies

- Every ceremony is personal, and created following a detailed and extensive interview with the relevant family and community of the person who has died.
- Every ceremony draws out and encourages the family's own tastes in culture and literature, using the celebrant's own knowledge and resources as appropriate.
- Every ceremony is meaningful, inspiring and well structured, with a script that accurately reflects the life, values and beliefs of the person who has died.
- Every ceremony includes language and ritual that is appropriate to the family they serve.

5. Cares about their self-development

- They are on a continuing path of personal and professional development to keep informing and improving the profound and varied demands of celebrancy work.