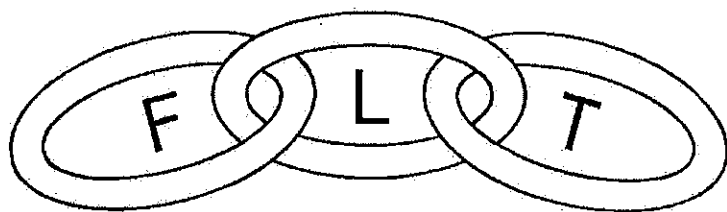


FUNERAL CEREMONY



FUNERAL CEREMONY

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This Ceremony and no other shall be used by the  
Lodges and Encampments at the burial of members of the  
Independent Order of Odd Fellows

Adopted by  
The Sovereign Grand Lodge, I.O.O.F.

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# FORMS FOR PUBLIC PROCESSIONS

In all processions of the Order the following forms shall be observed:

## FORM 1

If by a lodge, the procession shall form as follows:

|                                          |                                                                                |                                          |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
|                                          | MUSIC                                                                          |                                          |
|                                          | MARSHAL                                                                        |                                          |
|                                          | OUTSIDE GUARDIAN<br>(With drawn Sword)                                         |                                          |
| ESCORT                                   |                                                                                | ESCORT                                   |
|                                          | BANNER                                                                         |                                          |
|                                          | SCENE SUPPORTERS<br>(Bearing White Wands)                                      |                                          |
|                                          | INITIATORY, FIRST, SECOND AND<br>THIRD DEGREE MEMBERS<br>(Two or four abreast) |                                          |
|                                          | PAST GRANDS<br>(In order of Seniority – Senior PG at the rear)                 |                                          |
|                                          | INSIDE GUARDIAN<br>(With drawn Sword)                                          |                                          |
| CONDUCTOR<br>(Bearing Wand)              | CHAPLAIN<br>(With White Scarf)                                                 | WARDEN<br>(Bearing Axe)                  |
| SECRETARY                                | TREASURER                                                                      | SECRETARY                                |
| SUPPORTER<br>(Bearing Wand<br>of Office) | VICE GRAND<br>(With Gavel)                                                     | SUPPORTER<br>(Bearing Wand<br>of Office) |
| SUPPORTER<br>(Bearing Wand<br>of Office) | NOBLE GRAND<br>(With Gavel)                                                    | SUPPORTER<br>(Bearing Wand<br>of Office) |

FORM 2

If an encampment turns out as an encampment, it shall form in the following order:

MUSIC  
MARSHAL  
OUTSIDE SENTINEL  
(With drawn Sword)  
ESCORT                      BANNER                      ESCORT  
Members in order of Seniority  
(Two or four abreast)  
PAST OFFICERS IN ORDER OF SENIORITY  
(Unless the Grand Encampment is turned out)  
INSIDE SENTINEL  
(With drawn Sword)  
JUNIOR WARDEN AND GUIDE  
SCRIBE                      TREASURER                      SCRIBE  
FOURTH WATCH              SENIOR WARDEN              THIRD WATCH  
HIGH PRIEST/PRIESTESS  
GUARD OF THE TENT                      GUARD OF THE TENT  
(With Spear)                      (With Spear)  
SECOND WATCH              CHIEF                      FIRST WATCH  
Patriarch/Matriarch

### FORM 3

When a Grand Encampment is in procession it shall form in the following order:

MUSIC

GRAND MARSHAL

|                                      |                                                   |        |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------|
| ESCORT                               | BANNER<br>(Carried by the Grand Outside Sentinel) | ESCORT |
| GRAND SENTINEL<br>(With drawn Sword) |                                                   |        |

MEMBERS OF GRAND ENCAMPMENT

AND PAST OFFICERS  
(In order of seniority)

|                           |                          |                           |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN       |                          | GRAND SENIOR WARDEN       |
| GRAND SCRIBE              |                          | GRAND TREASURER           |
| GRAND                     |                          |                           |
| ESCORT<br>(Bearing Crook) | HIGH PRIEST/PRIESTESS    | ESCORT<br>(Bearing Crook) |
| GRAND REP.                | GRAND PATRIARCH<br>~~~~~ | GRAND REP.                |

### FORM 4

When a Grand Lodge is in procession it shall take precedence, and the Grand Marshal thereof shall control the procession, in which case the Grand Marshal shall be in front of the column:

MUSIC

GRAND MARSHAL

|                                      |                                         |        |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------|
| ESCORT                               | BANNER<br>(Carried by the Grand Herald) | ESCORT |
| GRAND GUARDIAN<br>(With drawn Sword) |                                         |        |

PAST GRANDS AND PAST OFFICERS  
(In order of seniority)

|                          |                     |                          |
|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| GRAND SECRETARY          |                     | GRAND TREASURER          |
| Grand<br>Conductor       | Grand<br>Chaplain   | Grand<br>Warden          |
| Supported by a<br>P.G.M. | DEPUTY GRAND MASTER | Supported by a<br>P.G.M. |
| GRAND REP.               | GRAND MASTER        | GRAND REP.               |



## FORM 5

When a Grand Lodge, Grand Encampment, the subordinates of both branches, and a Canton or detail of Patriarchs Militant are in procession, the order shall be as follows:

1. Patriarchs Militant (as escort).
2. Odd Fellows Lodge.
3. Encampment.
4. Grand Encampment.
5. Grand Lodge.

If any two or more of the above named bodies form in procession, they shall take the same relative positions.

If two or more lodges or encampments join in procession, they will take position in order of seniority; provided, that in a funeral procession where two or more lodges or encampments participate, the lodge and encampment of which the deceased was a member shall occupy the place of honor.

When The Sovereign Grand Lodge is in procession with other bodies of the Order, it shall take position in the rear of the Jurisdictional Grand Bodies.

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Form for Funeral Procession, REGALIA AND SERVICE

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### REGALIA

The following regalia may be worn by all members of the Order when attending the funeral of a deceased member:

*First.* A black crepe rosette, having a center of the color of the highest degree to which the bearer may have attained, to be worn on the left breast; above it a sprig of evergreen, and below it (if the wearer be an elective or Past Officer) the jewel or jewels which, as such, he/she may be entitled to wear.

*Second.* The ordinary mourning badge to be worn by members in memory of a deceased member shall be a strip of black crepe pinned on the left lapel of the coat, and tied with a narrow ribbon of the color of the highest degree to which the bearer may have attained.

## PROCESSION

The order of procedure at the funeral of a deceased member shall be as follows:

The procession shall form in the manner prescribed (Form 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5, as the case may be), and precedence shall be observed as set forth in each case.

At the appointed hour the lodge of which the deceased was a member shall meet at its room, and the Noble Grand, or in the absence of that officer, the Vice Grand, or in the absence of both the Noble Grand and the Vice Grand, the Senior Past Grand present shall call the lodge to order, briefly state the object of the convocation, and appoint a Marshal, who shall form the procession in accordance with the regulations. If the deceased brother or sister was at the time of his/her death a past or present elective officer of a Grand Lodge, the ceremonies may be conducted by such Grand Lodge.

Provided, however, that if a Grand or subordinate lodge does not participate in the funeral, and the deceased member, at the time of his/her death, was a member in good standing of the encampment branch, the subordinate or the Grand Encampment, either or both, as the case may be, may attend the funeral in the form as prescribed, and the ceremonies may be conducted by such subordinate or Grand Encampment, the language to be varied accordingly. Provided, further, that if the deceased member at the time of his/her death, was a past or present elective officer of a Grand Encampment, but not such officer of a Grand Lodge, or the funeral should not be attended by a Grand Lodge, but should be attended by a Grand Encampment and the subordinates of both branches, the Grand Encampment may conduct the ceremonies.

The column shall then pass in regular order from the hall to the locality from whence the funeral may have been appointed to start, and from thence to the place of interment.

## FUNERAL SERVICE

For the use of Lodges and Encampments.

When used by Encampments, the necessary changes in titles, etc., must be observed.

The Lodge will assemble in the Lodge room or in such other place as shall be designated by the Noble Grand in the call which he/she shall issue for the ceremony.

Each Lodge should have a regular funeral team consisting of an Acting Noble Grand and Acting Chaplain. Each member of this team should be able to read well and correctly so as to avoid the embarrassment of halting and poorly read passages, and the mispronunciation of important words. For instance, the word *immortality* should not be pronounced immorality as has sometimes been done to the embarrassment of the relatives, friends and members of the Lodge.

Emblems of mourning worn by members of the Lodge shall be uniform, and may be either a band of crepe on the left arm or a black badge on the left breast.

The Lodge will form in the regular order for processions. If the distance is not too great the Lodge will march to the place of service. Otherwise the members will fall out and ride to the place of service, where they will re-form the procession.

If the service be held in the lodge room, or within any other building, the Noble Grand and Chaplain shall stand at the head of the casket as nearly as practicable, the Noble Grand on the right and the Chaplain on the left side. The members shall remain in front of the casket and in a body so far as convenience will allow but never between casket and relatives.

If the service be held at the grave the Noble Grand and Chaplain shall stand at the head of the casket as nearly as practicable, the Noble Grand on the right and the Chaplain on the left side. The members will stand in a group near casket.

Provision shall be made for the near relatives of the deceased to occupy a place in view of the casket. The rights of all members of the family of the deceased member should be fully respected, especially during the period of bereavement and, if at all possible, and where desired, they should be allowed full view of the ceremony, being very careful and considerate in not standing between members of the family and remains of the deceased member.

Appropriate music may be used at any time, as the Noble Grand shall direct.

Any portion of this ceremony may be given at the Lodge Room, the home or any other suitable place, and the remainder of the ceremony shall be given at the grave. This shall be determined by the Noble Grand according to the circumstances of the case.

When the officers and members are in their places the ceremonies shall begin.

Chaplain ----- x

Noble Grand ----- x CASKET

## FORM OF FUNERAL SERVICE

**Noble Grand:** My brothers and sisters, we have assembled to perform the last service the living can render to the departed: to pay respect to one to whom we were bound by the claims of sincere friendship, unfeigned love and simple truth, one who was born as we were born, who lived as we now live, and who for many days enjoyed his/her possessions, power and friendships. When we lay to rest his/her earthly remains, we will cherish a lively recollection of his/her virtues.

**Chaplain:** Let us Pray, Our Father, in this hour of sorrow, we turn to Thee for help. Thou gavest life, Thou hast received it unto thyself again. May the lesson of this hour sink deep into our hearts and purify them. May friendship and love take new meaning in our lives, and may Thy truth guide us by righteousness to Thee. Comfort all whose hearts are made lonely at this hour. Assure them of Thy presence, and in their sorrow teach them to know that Thou hast received the spirit of their loved one to Thyself again. AMEN.

**Noble Grand:** Often have we been reminded in the solemn ceremonies of our Order of the great truth that all that is born must die. How cheerless the home of the dead when unrelieved by the prospect of immortal life! But hope remains over man's last resting place like an arch bright with life everlasting (*immortality*), which, based upon earth, extends far into the sacred realms of eternity.

When the hour of death comes, it is faith in this immortality that brings consolation. Though we part, never to meet again on earth, yet do we feel that somewhere, somehow, we shall rejoin our brothers and sisters. We look forward to a time when with clearer

vision, we shall know them in forms that never fade, in states that never change.

Today, we are in the full realization of health and enjoyment of the pleasures of this world. In a little while, the ever burning furnace of time will consume to ashes all that hath life and vigor in this terrestrial sphere.

Once, but surely once, will come to every one the call that takes a soul from earth. We bow in love and in humility to the will of God. The Chaplain will now present a lesson from that storehouse from which all our principles are derived.

**Chaplain:** Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or even Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting. Thou art God.

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

If for any reason it is deemed advisable, the Chaplain may read such additional Scripture as he/she shall deem appropriate.

**Noble Grand:** His/Her life span has ended. The light of his/her eye has gone out; and his/her lips are forever silent. His/Her toils and labors are done. The burning taper of life has been extinguished and he/she has crossed the silent river of death.

*(Optional)* (“My brothers and sister, you are aware of his/her contribution to our beloved Order. No more will his/her counsel be heard within our lodges, yet his/her wisdom will continue to aid us in our work. No more will he/she labor with us; yet the results of his/her labors will continue through years that are to come.”)

His/Her work among us is done; yet his/her influence will live to direct our actions for the good of our Order. We will miss him/her from our midst; but we will ever remember our associations with him/her; and we will keep ever in mind the obligations that we owe to those who were near and dear to him/her.

Here may be given such further remarks as the Noble Grand shall deem appropriate.

***Noble Grand:*** As a token that the virtues of our brother/sister will forever dwell in our memories we deposit this evergreen upon his/her casket.

The Noble Grand deposits the evergreen and as he/she does he/she repeats the words:

***Noble Grand:*** Farewell, Brother/Sister, until we meet thee in the Eternal Home.

The Vice Grand will lead the procession, followed by the Chaplain to pay their respects to the deceased member and continue around the room to their original position. Each member will repeat the words: “Farewell, Brother/Sister” and at the same time will deposit the evergreen.

*(Optional)*

***Noble Grand:*** As a token that the virtues of our brother/sister will dwell greenly in our memories, we deposit this evergreen upon his/her casket.

*The Noble Grand deposits the evergreen and as he/she does so repeats the words: "Farewell, brother/sister, until we meet thee in the Eternal Home."*

To be followed by the same or similar procedure as above.

***Noble Grand:*** Brother/Sister was initiated an Odd Fellow in \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_, of the Grand Jurisdiction of \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_. He/She became a Past Grand of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge.

Here fill in such history of the deceased member's full connection with the Order as is appropriate.

At the time of his/her death he/she was a member \_\_\_\_\_  
Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_.

***Noble Grand:*** The mortal remains of our brother/sister will be laid to rest within God's earth from whence he/she came.

***Chaplain:*** Let us Pray, Almighty and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and of Earth, look down, we pray Thee, with compassion upon this scene; give peace and comfort to these bereaved and give to us the strength to live the obligations that we owe to them. Bless our Beloved Order here and everywhere. May Friendship, Love and Truth be not unmeaning words upon our lips, but the sentiment of our hearts and the practice of our lives. May we live Thy law; the law that commands us to do unto others as we would that they should do unto us, and, when, after a life well spent on earth we shall pass through the valley of the shadow of death, and cross the silent river to join our loved ones gone before, may we meet Thee, Our Father, and hear the welcome plaudit, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of Thy Lord."



God of the Universe while we entrust the spirit of our departed brother/sister to Thy Holy care, may the record of his/her virtues be inscribed upon our hearts and his/her memory cherished by us forever. And we further pray in the words of Thy servant of old "The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us evermore." AMEN.



