

Almost a third of Britons have missed the funeral of a family member or friend

A recent survey by Perfect Choice Funeral Plans has revealed that almost a third of Britons have missed the funeral of a family member or friend and 81% of these people subsequently regretted their absence from the service. Not being able to face going was voted as the main reason for not attending. This was ahead of living too far away and being apprehensive of feuds amongst attendees.

Perfect Choice polled 2,216 British adults during the study, all aged 18 or over. To qualify for the survey, all respondents had to have lost a friend or family member within the past three years. The survey was conducted as part of ongoing research into the British public's attitudes towards grief and funerals.

Initially, all participants were asked whether they had been to the funeral of their friend or loved one who had passed away, to which 68% said they had. The rest said that they had not attended the event and were then asked to provide the reason or reasons for their absence. The most common reasons included:

- 1) Couldn't face going – 46%
- 2) Lived too far away from funeral destination – 39%
- 3) To avoid family feuds/didn't get along with certain guests – 32%
- 4) Unable to secure leave from work – 24%
- 5) Was away on holiday at the time – 15%

The survey then asked all those who had missed a family member or friend's funeral whether they had ever been to a funeral at all, to which half said that they hadn't. The average age of those who had missed a family member or friend's funeral was 31.

Finally, all of those who had missed a funeral were asked whether they regretted not attending the funeral of their family member or friend. The overwhelming majority (81%) of them said that they did.

Michael Liddle from Neville Funeral Service Ltd, a local independent funeral director based in Beds, Herts and Bucks who offers Perfect Choice funeral pre-payment plans said: "When it comes to a final farewell, there are many factors which influence whether or not someone attends a funeral. As an extremely difficult time in anybody's life, it's not surprising that grief hits so many so hard resulting in them not being able to face attending a funeral. It was also interesting to see that so many people are concerned about feuding at funerals.



As a funeral is a final farewell to loved ones and friends, it's easy to see why so many people who don't attend actually go on to regret their decision. When there are situations that are unavoidable, non-attendance is understandable; however, we'd urge people to carefully consider the options.

Funerals are often upsetting situations, but they can be positive, celebratory, life-affirming and sometimes heart-warming, so not always as difficult as they may initially seem."

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About Perfect Choice Funeral Plans

Perfect Choice Funeral Plans are provided by NAFD Services Limited which was set-up by the National Association of Funeral Directors (NAFD) whose member firms carry out over 80% of all funerals in the UK. NAFD Services Limited is a founding member of the Funeral Planning Authority, the official body that oversees the operation of companies offering funeral plans.

Perfect Choice Funeral Plan funds are held securely in a guaranteed whole of life assurance policy. For maximum security NAFD Services only works with UK-based life assurance companies that are authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) and regulated by the PRA and Financial Conduct Authority. A key difference with Perfect Choice Funeral Plans is that the pre-payment monies cannot be used for anything other than the client's funeral for total peace of mind.