

The Top 10 Strangest Funeral Requests

The traditional funeral is not for everyone; one thing we've learnt from assisting families in the local area during times of bereavement is that it really isn't at all cut and dried. A funeral, much like most other things in life, is not a one-size-fits-all affair. From music choices to coffin styles, there's a lot of options out there and we are finding that more and more people want to put their own stamp on their final send off.

Over the years, we have encountered moving, beautiful and touching funeral plans which have really tugged on the heartstrings. Our funeral plan provider – Perfect Choice Funeral Plans – recently identified some of the more unusual requests. Here's the top ten:

1. **Simon Cowell:** One lady requested to be buried with her prize possession – a framed picture of Simon Cowell!
2. **Thunderbirds:** One family requested that all attendants of their loved one's funeral wore Thunderbirds outfits.
3. **Singing Service:** A female client, who proclaimed her love for music, requested that one funeral service was conducted entirely by song.
4. **Paradise Lost:** A male client asked the funeral director for the entire volumes of John Milton's Paradise Lost to be read from start to finish at his funeral. Unsurprisingly, the request was compromised to a short reading.
5. **Song Choice:** A female client was adamant about her somewhat questionable song choices, including Ricki Martin's Livin' La Vida Loca.
6. **White Glove:** Whilst arranging a cremation service, a customer requested that a waving satin glove wearing a diamante bracelet appeared at the end of the service!
7. **Cat Care:** Whilst arranging one funeral, a funeral director was involved in the re-homing of the deceased's cat, which involved one of the bearers driving it to a cattery on the other side of the country.
8. **Cardboard Coffin:** One funeral director had a request for the deceased to be transported to the funeral in a cardboard coffin on the back of a tractor!



9. **Ashes to Fireworks:** One client wanted a cremation but didn't care if anyone attended or not. The client's ashes were then turned into fireworks for a display afterwards, which everyone was invited to.

10. **Woman's Best Friend:** A dog lover asked a funeral director if she could be buried with the ashes of her dog, who had passed away the year before.

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: "We cater for a range of requests and do everything we can to help, as long as it's legal!"

More and more people are pre-arranging their funerals to reduce the burden and worry for their families; with more time to plan their funeral, people often consider different ways to personalise the service which can be a real source of comfort at the time of need.

Our customers are often surprised when they realise the level of personalisation that can be included in a funeral service. Some of the simplest options are often the most effective, and what's more they needn't cost the earth."

Contact name: Louise Clarke
Role: Community and Pre-Need Manager
Contact number: 01582 499608

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.

