



Grieving Recovery Guide

Sauk County

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Facing the death of a loved one can leave you feeling overwhelmed and emotionally stressed. This guide is designed to help you in the days, weeks and months following the death of a loved one. It provides immediate next steps; including funeral planning resources and options, as well as information about support groups and other community resources you may wish to access in the months to come.

This resource guide is divided into three sections: Funeral Planning, Support Groups & Counseling and Practical Information.

We extend to you our deepest sympathies.

The Sauk County Coroner's Office
The Sauk County Health Department



Revised 05/2022

Funeral Planning

Sauk County Funeral Homes

Rago-Baldwin Funeral Home

520 East Street

Baraboo, WI 53913

(608) 356-4656

Redlin Funeral Home

401 Madison Ave

Baraboo, WI 53913

(608) 356-6571

Picha Funeral Home

120 E Adams Street

Lake Delton, WI 53940

(608) 253-7884

Gunderson Funeral Home

157 S. Main Street

Lodi, WI 53555

(608) 592-3201

Pflanz Manty Mendrala Funeral Home

430 W. Wisconsin Street

Portage, WI 53901

(608) 742-2126

Farber Funeral Chapel

2000 Viking Dr.

Reedsburg, WI 53959

(608) 524-2339

Revised 05/2022

Hoof Funeral Home
312 N Park Street
Reedsburg, WI 53959
(608) 524-2337

Clary Memorial Funeral Home
26777 Jelland Dr
Richland Center, WI 53581
(608) 647- 6390

Pratt Funeral Home
120 N. Park St.
Richland Center, WI 53581
(608) 647-4808

Hooverson Funeral Home
251 Water Street
Sauk City, WI 53583
(608) 643-6430

Richardson Stafford Funeral Home
780 N Winsted Street
Spring Green, WI 53588
(608) 588-2181

Picha Funeral Home
321 Washington Ave.
Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965
(608) 253-7884

Sauk County Cemeteries

Sauk County has over seventy cemeteries. Visit http://wisconsin.hometownlocator.com/features/cultural_class_cemetery_scfiles_55111.cfm for a complete list.

Funeral Planning Assistance

Contact the National Funeral Directors Association Helpline

Offers help with funeral planning, resource referral and grief support and information

800-228-NFDA (800-228-6332)

Funeral Costs

Funeral directors can help guide you through the funeral-planning process. They are legally required to give you a summary of their offered services and their costs. Ask questions so that you are clear what services you are purchasing and their costs. Costs can vary greatly between funeral homes. Depending on funeral services, the average cost is between \$6,970-\$7,848.

Grave Markers

Grave markers or headstones can be purchased through a cemetery or a private organization. They range in cost from hundreds, to thousands of dollars. Check with your chosen cemetery about any regulations before purchasing a headstone or marker.

Embalming & Cooling

Embalming is a process which temporarily preserves and seals a body. It is usually used before an open-casket funeral or wake. The average cost of embalming is an additional \$775. Embalming is not required by law, except in cases of communicable disease.

If cooling is desired, it often needs to be initiated within 24 hours of death. Talk with your funeral director if you would like to explore these options.

Cremation

What is cremation?

Cremation is an option for families that wish to bury, scatter, store at a cemetery, or personally keep the ashes of a loved one. Cremation involves exposing the body to heat inside of a cremator, and the cremated remains are placed in an urn or other vessel. Cremation is now the most common method of burial.

What is required?

A casket is not required for cremation. If a family does not desire a casket, the body will be cremated in a container of wood or cardboard, as indicated by the crematory. The crematory will typically provide this alternative container and its cost will be included in their fee. The deceased may be clothed as desired. If desired, a family can hold a viewing or wake before the cremation.

What can be done with the remains?

In Wisconsin, cremated remains may be buried in a cemetery or urn garden, stored in a columbarium or mausoleum at a cemetery, kept by a family, or scattered on private land. Laws vary from state-to-state about where remains may be scattered or kept. Cremated remains may also be scattered in the ocean, at least three nautical miles from the shore. The EPA requires a notification of burial at sea within thirty days of the burial.

For more information on burial at sea, consult <http://www.epa.gov/region6/water/ecopro/burialremainsatsea.html>

What is the cost?

The average cremation cost is \$6,970. If a memorial service is not desired, families may be able to work with the crematory or funeral home for a significantly lower cost. This is referred to as a “direct cremation.”

Green Burials

Green burials honor the idea of returning the body to the earth in its natural state, as well as being conscious of the health of the land itself. There are currently no designated green burial cemeteries in Sauk County, though families may be able to use some of these burial practices at a traditional cemetery. For more information on green burials, visit <http://www.greenburialcouncil.org/>.

Veterans

If you or your loved one is and/or was a veteran you may be eligible for a variety of survivors' benefits. Contact the Veterans Administration for more information.

Benefits may include your choice of a gravesite form 131 national cemeteries and other gravesite features at no cost. Deceased spouse or dependents may also be buried in the same plot.

Veterans buried in a private cemetery are eligible for a Government headstone, marker or medallion, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate at no cost to the family. There are no VA benefits available to spouses and dependents buried in a private cemetery.

For more information visit:

www.va.gov

www.cem.va.gov

Benefits: 1-800-827-1000

Sauk County Veterans Services

505 Broadway St #205, Baraboo, WI 53913

Hours: 8:00AM -4:30PM Monday-Friday

(608) 355-3260

Support Groups & Counseling

Pregnancy and Infant Loss Support

Mikayla's Grace

A Madison-based organization that offers support for bereaved parents and those with children in the NICU. They have an excellent, extensive resource list of Madison-area support groups, memorials, and services for grieving families.

<https://www.mikaylasgrace.com/resources/>

Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin-Infant Death Center

Individual assessment via phone to individualize support for parents, grandparents and siblings who have experience infant/fetal death.

The Children's Health Alliance works to provide education and prevention of infant deaths.

Contact (608) 221-3511

<http://www.chawisconsin.org>

Share Pregnancy and Infant Loss Support, Inc.

National organization with resources including an online community. <https://nationalshare.org/>

National Share Office

402 Jackson Street

Saint Charles, Missouri 63301

Phone: 1-800-821-6819

Email: info@nationalshare.org

Revised 05/2022

Support for Parents Who Have Lost a Child***The Compassionate Friends***

Local chapters host support groups for families that have experienced the death of a child. Also provides access to an online support community and resources.

<http://www.compassionatefriends.org>

Parents of Murdered Children, Inc.

Support for families and friends of those who have died due to violence. Their mission is to provide emotional support, education, advocacy, prevention and awareness for deaths due to violence. Local groups listed on website.

1-888-818-7662

www.pomc.com

Support for Grieving Children and Teens***Agrace HospiceCare***

Offers a family support group, kids' support group and a kids' retreat. Groups are open to all; regardless of if the deceased was an Agrace patient.

<http://www.agrace.org/griefgroups>

(608) 327-7118

The Dougy Center: The national center for grieving children and families

The center provides great materials under the "resources" tab to better understand and support grieving children of all ages. <http://www.dougy.org>

Revised 05/2022

Camp HOPE

Runs three, free, weekend-long camps throughout the year for grieving children and teens. The camp is located northeast of Stevens Point, WI.

<https://www.camphopeforkids.org/>

Support for Grieving Adults***Local Hospitals***

Your local hospital may host grief support groups. Contact your local hospital to inquire.

Agrace HospiceCare

Offers a weekly grief support group for those who have lost a spouse or partner. All groups are open to all; regardless of if the deceased was an Agrace patient. Groups meet in various locations.

<http://www.agrace.org/griefgroups>

(608) 327-7118

SSM Health at Home

Offers support groups for any community members, regardless of if their loved one was a patient of SSM Health.

<https://www.ssmhealth.com/health-at-home/hospice-services/grief-bereavement>

(877) 356-4514

Local Religious and Spiritual organizations

Many religious or spiritual organizations also offer support groups for grieving families. Inquire at your place of worship for more information.

Revised 05/2022

HOPE Sauk Prairie

HOPE support meetings are peer support to anyone 16 years or older who has lost someone they love to suicide, overdose or violent death.
hopesaukpr@gmail.com

Therapy and Counseling***Art Therapy***

A therapeutic use of art-making that can be a healing process. To find a trained art therapist, visit <http://www.wiarttherapy.org/>

Sauk County Department of Human Services

Baraboo Sauk County West Square Building
 505 Broadway
 Baraboo, WI 53913
 General: (608) 355-4200

Other Counseling

Talk with your primary care provider about your grieving process. They may be able to refer you to a Clinical Psychologist, Psychiatrist, or Counselor to help your work through your grief. Local clinics specializing in counseling services and mental health services can be found in the Sauk County Mental Health Resource Guide, visit <https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/humanservices/mental-health-and-recovery-services>

Grief and Bereavement

Grief is a process, not an event, of experiencing physiologic, psychologic, behavioral, social, and spiritual reactions to the loss of a child (Hockenberry & Wilson, 2013). Grief is individualized, including a broad range of emotions that differ from person to person. Grief is a normal process in response to loss; it is neither orderly nor predictable. Accepting these emotions is a part of the grieving process and is necessary for healing to occur. Everyone goes through the healing process at a different pace. You and your loved ones may deal with grief differently.

The five stages of grief are:

- Denial
- Anger
- Bargaining
- Depression
- Acceptance

These stages are not orderly and some individuals may backtrack. It is important to recognize that grieving does not happen overnight, weeks, or months but a process that can take up to a year. Difficult periods should become less intense and shorter as time goes by, but it takes time to work through a loss. It can be especially difficult during events such as family parties or anniversaries.

Intense intrusive thoughts, episodes of severe emotion, distress, longing, feelings of excessive loneliness and emptiness, unusual sleep disturbance, and lack of motivation to complete activities of daily living such as bathing, eating, and proper hygiene may be signs and symptoms of complicated grief. Complicated grief should be addressed by a medical professional. If you or your family member noticed signs and symptoms of complicated grief, contact your primary care provider for further assessment.

Untreated, complicated grief and depression can lead to significant emotional damage, life-threatening health problems, and even suicide. But treatment can help you get better.

Contact a grief counselor or professional therapist if you:

- Feel like life isn't worth living
- Wish you had died with your loved one
- Blame yourself for the loss or for failing to prevent it
- Feel numb and disconnected from others for more than a few weeks
- Are having difficulty trusting others since your loss
- Are unable to perform your normal daily activities

Practical information

Death Certificates

Contact your selected funeral home, or Sauk County Register of Deeds

Register of Deeds
Room #122
Sauk County West Square Building
505 Broadway
Baraboo, WI 53913

Phone: (608) 355-3288

Fax: (608) 355-4439

Autopsy Report

If you would like to request an autopsy, contact the Coroner within 24 hours of the death. The coroner will be able to answer your questions and concerns in this process. The family will be responsible for any associated costs.

If your loved one had an autopsy you may obtain the report by contacting the Sauk County Coroner's office.

The coroner investigates and verifies all deaths that occur in Sauk County.

Sauk County Coroner
1319 Sauk Avenue
Baraboo, WI 53913
Office: (608) 355-3295

Revised 05/2022

Police Report

You may be able to obtain a copy of the police report if there is an investigation of an accident or crime related to your loved one.

Police phone number:

Police case number:

Deputy/Officer/Trooper:

Crime Victim Compensation

If your loved one was murdered or killed by a reckless or hit-and-run driver you may be eligible for financial assistance from the Crime Victim Compensation fund for medical, funeral or counseling costs.

www.doj.state.wi.us

Phone in Madison area: (608) 264-9497

TTY: (800) 947-3529

Medical Records

Depending on your relationship to the deceased and their medical record releases, you may be able to obtain medical records from the hospital or clinic where your loved one was treated.

Facility:

Phone number:

Revised 05/2022

Social Security Benefits

As next of kin of the deceased, you may be eligible for survivor benefits. You will need the following documents to apply to receive survivor benefits, but you are encouraged to begin the application process even if you cannot locate all of these documents. The Social Security Administration can assist you in obtaining them.

- Proof of death (from funeral home or death certificate)
- Your social security number as well as the deceased
- Your birth certificate
- Your marriage certificate if you are a widow or widower
- Your divorce papers (if you are applying as a divorced widow or widower)
- Dependent children's birth certificates and social security numbers
- Deceased worker's W-2 form or self-employment tax return from the most recent year
- Your bank name and account number so that your benefits can be directly deposited

Contact the Social Security Administration:

Online: www.ssa.gov

Phone: 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778)

Suite 100

2875 Village RD

Portage, WI 53901

Revised 05/2022

Notify agencies of your loved one's death

Their employer (if applicable)

Phone: _____

Insurance agent

Phone: _____

Bank

Phone: _____

US Postal Service

If the deceased was living alone, it is recommended to forward mail to another location so it does not accumulate. The documents, statements, and subscriptions that come in the mail for the deceased may help you to identify organizations that have not yet been notified of your loved one's death.

Phone: 1-800-275-8777

Obituaries

The funeral home of your choice will usually write and submit the obituary to the desired newspaper. If you are not working with a funeral home or choosing to do this yourself you can contact the newspaper directly.

Wisconsin State Journal

Email: obits@madison.com

Phone: 608-283-7600

Fax: 608-252-6033

Pictures: e-mail jpg with obituary or drop off at Capital Newspapers, 1901 Fish Hatchery Road, Madison.

Verification of Death: Obituaries and death notices not placed by funeral homes will require verification of death or a copy of the death certificate.

Billing: Prepayment is required for all obituaries not placed by in-state funeral homes.

Baraboo News Republic

714 Matt's Ferry Road

Baraboo, WI 53913

Telephone: 1-800-236-2110

Legacy

Obituaries can be placed on the site directly, or through the site, local papers can be chosen.

<https://legacy.memoriams.com/>

Wiscnews

Obituaries can then be sent to Baraboo News Republic, Portage Daily Register, Beaver Dam Daily Citizen, Juneau County Star Times, and Wisconsin Dells Events

https://www.wiscnews.com/place_an_ad/obituaries/

Reedsburg Independent

Editor: Heather Stanek

reedindy@newspubinc.com

(608) 495-9301

Biohazard Cleanup

ServiceMaster

Phone: (608) 356-8888

<https://sm-restores.com/biohazard/>

Archangels BioRecovery Inc.

Tragedy Sanitation Specialists

Provide decontamination, sanitation, and restoration after suicides, homicides, accidents and unattended deaths. Services are often covered by homeowner's insurance, commercial insurance, or the state crime victim compensation fund

www.archangels.pro

24/7 phone: (888)-750-0220

Unused Medications

Don't hold on to unused medications. Drop them off, no questions asked, at local law enforcement stations or the Ho-Chunk House of Wellness.

Prefer at-home disposal? Contact Public Health Sauk County for FREE deactivation kits.