

Spiritual Needs at Time of Death

In order to provide appropriate support to you and your family, we need to understand your particular circumstances. Each of us has come to Kadampa Center with a unique spiritual history and has family and friend connections whose spiritual path may differ slightly or widely from our own. Please fill out this form to help provide us with some insight into what might be appropriate for you. All information will be treated as confidential and will be kept in a locked file in the office, to be used only as the need arises. Thank you for taking time to provide this information so we can best serve you.

Date: _____ Member's Full Name: _____

How long have you been following Buddhist practice?

Have you taken Refuge Vows?

Family relationships:

Do any family members live nearby?

Are family members supportive of your spiritual choice?

Are family members knowledgeable about your spiritual practices?

Your Primary Support Person (friend/family):

Does this person live with you or nearby?

Is this person supportive of your spiritual choice?

Is this person knowledgeable about your spiritual practices?

Who can Kadampa Center contact if you are seriously ill or deceased?

Will you be sharing information on this form with this person?

What is/are your heart practice(s)? That is, what practice do you find yourself doing on a regular basis and what practice do you automatically turn to in times of stress?

What elements in your surroundings help you feel peaceful or supported? (Images, mantra recordings, nature)

Which Kadampa Center practices touch your heart?

Please know that Kadampa Center can do prayers and pujas at the Center on your behalf.

Have you attended any of these?

Do you know how to make prayer requests?

Have you made prayer requests before or sponsored pujas before?

Would you like your name added to dedication prayer list at the time of illness/ death?

Kadampa Center members and ordained Sangha can also visit your home to do prayers/ pujas.

Is this something that you might like? If yes, we can make sure to offer this to you at the appropriate time.

Would your family be open to practices in your home? At a hospital?

Have you had personal experience with a family member death?

Did this person die at a hospital? Nursing home? Accident? At home?

In most settings, you should make advance preparations for the disposition of your body at death.

Have you made a living will, cremation/ funeral preparations, talked about your wishes with family? If so, please note where you are in this process:

What family traditions around death and dying would you like to respect?

Kadampa Center offers a very special memorial program two weeks after someone has died. The purpose of this service is to support the deceased in the bardo state to promote a positive rebirth. There is a standard format and some preparations family members must do. Each service can be tailored to fit the commemorative wishes of the family. Kadampa Center can also be the service of record; that is, our service can be the one announced in the paper for the public to attend. We can accommodate about 150 people. The family sponsors this service.

Have you ever attended a Kadampa Center memorial service before?

In addition to a Kadampa service that has a very specific intent, you could also have a more traditional service for the public. Kadampa Center's Chaplain and ordained Sangha can participate in a more traditional service if you wish.

You and your family can also add your name to prayers said by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Lama Zopa Rinpoche, and FPMT students around the world. Visit <http://www.fpmt.org/pfd.html> for the details about this service.

For resources and further support on aging, death and dying, please visit our member web page http://www.kadampa-center.org/death_dying.php. Included is a Dharma Will that can be used to indicate additional specific wishes about spiritual practices done for you at the time of death.

Please return this form (and the Dharma Will, if you'd like) to the Spiritual Program Coordinator in hard copy or by emailing program@kadampa-center.org. Please also email the SPC if you would like to schedule an appointment to go over your responses on this form, to have questions answered, or to explore your needs in more detail.