

What Is The Bridge Program?

The Bridge Program has been designed to assist in introducing the sensitive topic of end-of-life planning. When you or a loved one is in hospice, providing as much comfort as possible is a priority. The Bridge Program is another part of that process; giving families the security in knowing their loved one in hospice will be taken care of when they pass on.

For that reason, The Bridge Program offers a safe place to shelter your loved one in the event that no plans have been made after the passing. At no cost to families, Spicer-Mullikin Funeral Homes will remove and shelter your loved one until a decision on a funeral home is made. This provides families peace of mind while they are making critical decisions for their loved one's funeral or memorial service.

Spicer-Mullikin Funeral Homes Our Service Reflects Your Love

Spicer-Mullikin Funeral Homes and Crematory has been serving Delaware families since 1906. Our funeral homes, located in Newark, New Castle and Delaware City, provide complete funeral services including traditional burials, environmentally friendly burials and cremation services. Spicer-Mullikin is one of the few funeral homes in Delaware to employ a full-time grief specialist for post-service care.



302-368-9500

The logo for 'the BRIDGE program'. It features a stylized blue bridge arch above the word 'the' in a small, gold, serif font. Below 'the' is the word 'BRIDGE' in a large, blue, serif font. Underneath 'BRIDGE' is the word 'program' in a gold, serif font.

the BRIDGE program

A Transitional Guidance Program Facilitating End-of-Life Planning

For hospice patients and their families

A Gaelic Blessing

Deep peace of the running wave to you.

Deep peace of the flowing air to you.

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.

Deep peace of the shining stars to you.

Deep peace of the infinite peace to you.

- Adapted from Fiona Macleod

Making final arrangements

This guide and The Bridge Program exist to ease funeral planning. We are here to provide you and your family with information, as well as to offer a starting point for initiating plans and discussions.

The funeral service is an important observance that helps families and friends cope with and accept the loss of a loved one. It commemorates and honors the life that has been lived, allows people to gather and provide one another with emotional support, initiates the grieving process and provides a necessary sense of closure.

No matter when you start, planning ahead for a funeral is a difficult task.

The staff and caregivers at hospice can be a big help to you. If you have questions about funeral planning, write them down and set aside some time with a hospice staff person to address them.

If you have no pre-existing funeral arrangement plans, consider these questions.

- Do you or your loved one want a visitation or viewing? If so, where?
- Do you or your loved one want a funeral service? If so, where?
- Do you or your loved one have any special writings you would like read aloud, or any special music played?
- Do you or your loved one want memorial contributions made to a charity in lieu of flowers?
- Do you or your loved one prefer a traditional burial or a cremation?

Do not feel bad if you do not know the answer to these questions. Now is the time to ask.

During this emotional time, The Bridge Program strongly recommends that you not sign any paperwork or agreement without reading it carefully. Ask a close family friend to look over all paperwork with you.



Selecting a funeral home

Many times, families will have a preferred funeral home that they have worked with before. If this is not the case for you, ask your hospice caregivers for advice or select a funeral home on your own. Consider these questions:

- Does the funeral home have roots in your community?
- Is the funeral home family-owned?
- Is the funeral home a member of the Better Business Bureau, or the local chamber of commerce?
- Does the funeral home have a dedicated grief specialist on staff?

The funeral director can also assist you in making decisions on how to best commemorate a loved one's life.

“And in the end it is not the years in your life that count, it's the life in your years.”

– Abraham Lincoln