

The cremation service and process

If you require further information, please contact Sandwell Valley Crematorium, where the staff will be pleased to assist you.

Sandwell Bereavement Services

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On arrival at the chapel, the cortege is received by the Chapel Attendant. The Chapel Attendant checks the name plate on the coffin to a copy of the order for cremation form. The coffin plate is checked before the coffin enters the chapel.

If the coffin plate corresponds with the form, the cortege is received into the chapel where the service will continue. Should the coffin plate contain an error, advice is sought from crematorium management. Once the problem has been rectified the service will continue.

During the service, the curtains will close around the coffin which is transported to the crematory once the mourners have left the chapel. If you prefer, arrangements can be made to leave the curtains open.

Once received into the crematory, the name plate is checked again with the order for cremation form. If all details are correct the coffin is charged in the cremator, by means of an automatic charging machine. A manual charging machine is also available.

If the details are incorrect, advice is again sought from crematorium management, and the coffin stored on the storage racks until any problems have been rectified.

The order for cremation form follows the remains through the whole of the cremation process, and is placed on the front of the cremator being used until cremation is complete.

An average cremation takes around 100 minutes to complete. Once the cremation is complete, the remains are collected in a separate cooling area within the bottom part of the cremator, and the order for cremation form is moved to this area. The remains are cooled for approximately 20 minutes.

The remains are then transferred, by means of a metal container, into a 'cremulator' machine, which reduces the remains to a fine ash and separates any metal objects, this being their final state. The order for cremation form follows the remains through all the various stages of the process.

The remains are finally transferred into a reinforced container, marked with a label recording name, age and cremation number and stored (in a locked storage room within the crematory), with the cremation certificate, for up to four weeks (or longer, if required), awaiting disposal. Only the applicant for the cremation can decide on the final disposal.