



## What is a celebrant?

Kate and Kate still often get asked 'what is a celebrant?'. They also get asked if they are like Funeral Directors.

Funeral Directors and Celebrants work together but have very separately defined roles. So, at its most simple: Funeral Directors do the fabulous job of taking care of the body and Celebrants do the fabulous job of creating and conducting the ceremony.

Funeral Directors: Pick up the person who has died from wherever they died. Store that person. Wash and dress that person. Talk to the family about the sort of service they would like, what venue etc Organise the coffin. Book the church/crem/other venue and sort out the necessary paperwork. Transport the person from their premises to the funeral venue/crematorium/ burial ground. All of this is done in liaison with the family and making sure their wishes are met. They can also book a celebrant for you if you chose not to book one directly.

Celebrants: Meet with the family to talk about what sort of service they would like. Talk them through their ceremony options. Talk to them about all the different things they could include in the ceremony. Talk to them about the person who has died and find out all about them so that they can write a ceremony script that is all about that person. Write the script. Send the script to the family so that they can approve/amend/tweak and work together until it's exactly how they'd like it to be. Turn up at the venue, check music, layout etc. Conduct the ceremony with warmth and pathos.

Remember - you do not have to use a Funeral Director or a Celebrant. You can do everything yourself.

You can use a Funeral Director but not a Celebrant. (ie have a friend or relative conduct your service or have no service at all.)

You can use a Celebrant but not a Funeral Director. (Do all the care of the body and make arrangements yourself but just have someone on hand to take care of the ceremony.)

Celebrants do not work FOR Funeral Directors - they work for families and can be booked directly. Funeral Directors can engage the services of a Celebrant on behalf of the family. So you can book a celebrant directly or through a Funeral Director.