

## **Home Vigil Additional Materials**

**It takes a community to create a home vigil. The following roles may be helpful for your community when planning the home funeral process. The earlier the planning, the better!**

### **-Informers of Community**

These people can be set up with call lists and are assisting families on “getting the word out.”

### **-Carpenters**

Many people choose to make their own casket and work with carpenters/woodworkers. Other options include shrouds, woven containers, and other biodegradable substances.

### **-Seamstress/Dressmakers**

It may be helpful to have a seamstress assist with making a special shroud or other items worn in burial per tradition.

### **-Lawyer**

If you have questions about forms and paperwork, they are a great resource.

### **-Medical Social Worker**

They may have knowledge about paperwork and burial processes. Most hospice social workers are trained to help arrange funerals.

### **-Ritualists/Ceremonialist**

This may include a spiritual or religious leader. This person can assist with readings, music, and other practices per tradition.

### **-Herbalist**

These folks can assist with using plants or other natural substances in the burial process. Herbal medicine varies per tradition.

### **-Gardner/Florist**

If you would like flowers to be a part of the vigil process, it is useful to have access to a flower garden or contract with a florist.

### **-Tenders of space**

Folks that are available to help caregivers below with moving the loved one and also picking after guests.

### **-Physician**

This person is needed to do the “official” portion of the death worksheet. It is always helpful to have a doctor’s advice for questions or concerns that may come up.

**-Caregivers/Aides**

These people are instrumental to the vigil process. Many times this process is facilitated by closer family.

**-Sitting/Shift work**

Some people choose to sit with a deceased person in shifts until burial. It is great to create a schedule or sign up sheet for this portion.

**-Food Preparation**

Many people have a potluck and choose to have an individual coordinate food and drink.