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| Going to a funeral |

When a person dies, the family may hold a funeral service. It can be a little different for each family. Some families hold a prayer service at the funeral home. Then the body is taken to a cemetery. Other families may have a church service.

At the funeral home, there is a last viewing of the body. The casket is then closed and put in a hearse. This is a special vehicle used to transport the casket. Everyone gets in their vehicles and drives behind the hearse. The drivers get to put their hazard lights on and drive through red lights as if they were one long vehicle—kind of like a train. The hearse drives to the church. The caske/coffin is carried into the church. Sometimes people I know may help to carry the casket/coffin. A special mass or church service is held in honour of the person who died. I might see, hear and smell new things. The stained glass is interesting. The church organ plays songs and sometimes people sing. Church bells may ring. Sometimes incense can be used. If these things bother me, I can tell my parent by whispering what I want to say. The casket is then carried back in the hearse. Most people follow the hearse to the cemetery. The casket is carried to the grave at the cemetery. A hole has already been dug. The casket will sit above this hole. Some final words are said about the person who died. Sometimes the people attending are asked to place dirt, flower petals or flowers on the casket before it is lowered into the ground. Sometimes everyone stays to watch the casket be lowered into the ground. I need to remember that this is only the body that's in the casket. The person I love is no longer in this body. When the ceremony at the grave is over, often people are invited to attend a gathering. Relatives and families get together one last time to talk and celebrate the life of the person who died. The funeral can take a long time and I might get bored. It's important to be patient and respectful. I can be helpful by sitting quietly and talking in a whisper at the funeral home and church.