

HOW LONG CAN YOU DELAY A FUNERAL?

What are the practical and emotional considerations to take into account when scheduling a funeral?

WHEN TO POSTPONE THE FUNERAL

An important family member cannot attend the service. Loved ones who travel or live overseas may not be immediately available to attend a funeral.



Cases in which the body is not immediately available to embalm; for example, when a soldier's remains are yet to be found, or in the case of a missing person.



2 weeks

Funerals are commonly held as soon after the death as possible. In North America, that usually means about one or two weeks later.



In case the death was part of a criminal investigation, you may have to delay the funeral if required by law. In cases like this, sometimes the family has to wait six or seven days to bury or cremate the body.



Ultimately, it's best to bury or cremate a body as soon as possible after death. But there are many reasons why this may not be possible. Whatever the reason, handling the body of a loved one should be the most pressing concern. Future memorial services gatherings are always possible.

