

*The White Dove Company's
Guide To Releasing
Doves At A
Funeral Or Memorial*



SYMBOLISM OF DOVES

For centuries doves have symbolised
Love, Peace, Hope, and The Soul.



SINGLE DOVE - Can represent the soul and spirit of the deceased.

A PAIR OF DOVES - One soul joining another, a partnership reunited for eternity.

THE TRINITY RELEASE (4 DOVES) - Three doves ascend from a basket (The Father, Son & Holy Spirit) to escort a fourth dove which is typically released by hand.

A FLOCK OF DOVES (10 - 100) - Represents a celebration of life and bids a united farewell by family members and friends.

FAMILY HAVE THEIR OWN IDEAS?

Each funeral or memorial is unique and individual, so please ask us if your families have any special requests, such as a representative amount of doves, a coloured ribbon added to the baskets, a few words said before the dove release or attaching messages as a personal farewell.

THE PERSONAL TOUCH

A **PERSONAL MESSAGE** can be attached to the dove. It should be written onto paper and not card measuring 1cm x 4cm. This should be given to our dove handler who will carefully place it onto the dove's leg ring before taking flight on the day.

Messages normally fall off during flight.

YOUNG CHILDREN often find it hard to understand death and releasing a dove provides an ever lasting memory.

If children are not attending the funeral, a memorial release can be arranged at another special place i.e at home in the garden or a park etc.

A **PERSONALISED MEMORIAL CARD** is presented to the family following the dove release. The memorial card will carry your company name and branch as well as the deceased's name, date and venue of release.

FEATHER BAGS - Naturally moulted pure white feathers are gathered in summer months and placed in to silk organza bags. These accompany the personalised memorial cards when available.

Please make us aware if the deceased is a Baby or Infant, as we attach miniature keepsake teddies to the feather bags.



BURIALS

When your funeral arrives at graveside our dove handler will be standing as close to the grave as possible with the doves presented in carriers or a basket ready for your family to release.

The doves are traditionally released following the short graveside blessing and after the coffin has been lowered.

Our dove handler will ask your FD to be introduced to a family member(s) who will be releasing the dove(s). We will ask if anyone would like to hold and release the dove(s) by hand, or alternatively directly from the dove carrier or basket without touching the dove(s).

CORRECT INFORMATION NEEDED AT TIME OF BOOKING

FUNERAL SERVICE TIME - Service time in the Cemetery Chapel or Church prior to the burial, should be indicated as the time of the Funeral Service.

GRAVESIDE/BURIAL TIME - Please let us know both the service and graveside/burial time.

DIRECT TO GRAVE - Indicates that a funeral service has taken place elsewhere and the cortege will enter the Cemetery and drive Direct To Grave.

BACKFILL - Some families choose to release doves after the grave has been filled in (backfill) and the grave has been dressed with floral tributes. We **MUST** know if the family want to release before OR after backfill.

DOVE RELEASE TIME - Should be indicated on our booking form.

ASHES BURIAL OR ASHES SCATTERING OR MEMORIAL

Doves can be released from almost anywhere that holds dear memories. We like to meet the family in a mutually convenient place, from where we will escort them to the chosen place of release. We also require a contact mobile number of the person(s) we are meeting out of your normal office hours.

CREMATIONS

Doves are traditionally released after the Crematorium Chapel service in the flower bay area or Cloisters. We will nestle our carriers containing the doves to the front of any floral tributes displayed by your funeral staff. Our larger decorated basket will be displayed at the back of any floral tributes.

Our dove handler will arrive at the Crematorium just after the service starts in the Cremation Chapel. They then have time the service takes to liaise with your Funeral Director.

After the service our dove handler should be introduced to family a member(s) who will be releasing the dove(s). We will ask if they would like to hold and release the dove(s) by hand, or alternatively directly from the dove carrier or basket without touching the dove(s).

CORRECT INFORMATION NEEDED AT TIME OF BOOKING

COMMITTAL ONLY - Short service lasting 10-15 minutes.

SINGLE SLOT - Service time 30-45 minutes.

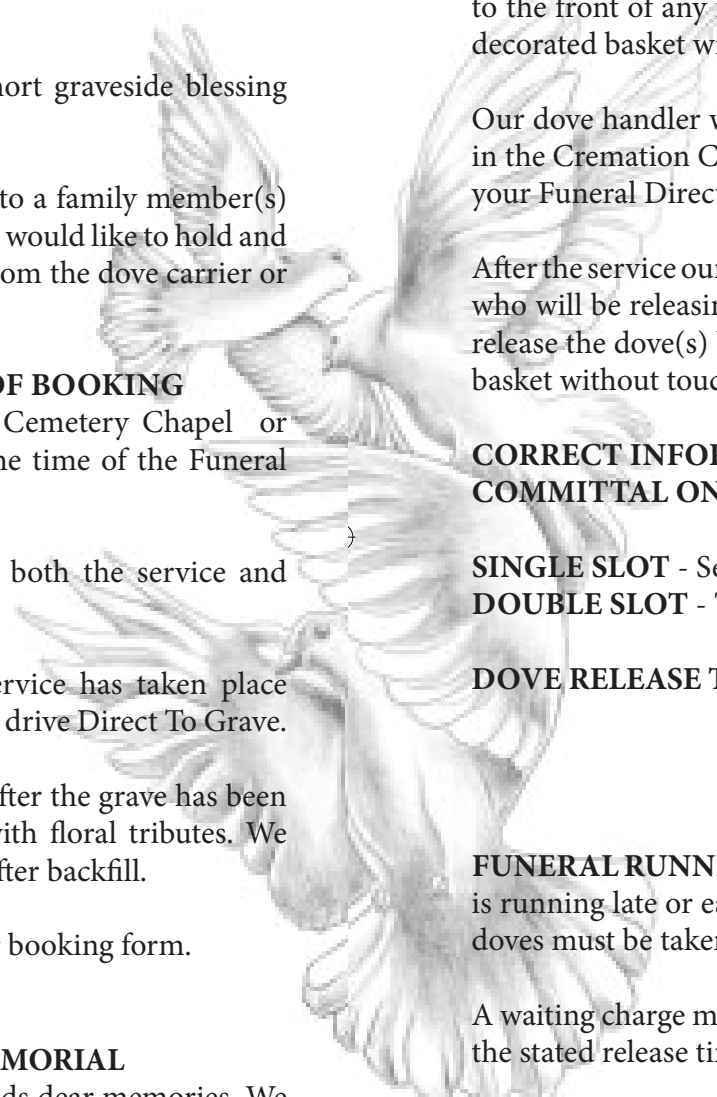
DOUBLE SLOT - Two service slots back to back.

DOVE RELEASE TIME - Should be indicated on our booking form.

FUNERAL RUNNING LATE OR EARLY - Please let us know if your funeral is running late or early. As we are working with livestock, the welfare of our doves must be taken into account under all circumstances.

A waiting charge may apply if the doves are not released within 20 minutes of the stated release time on the completed booking forms.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS VERY HELPFUL I.E - A large turnout of mourners expected, Horse Drawn, Young Person, Baby, or Travellers Funeral etc...



OUR PRESENTATION EQUIPMENT

SINGLE CARRIERS - Our elegant dove carriers are perfect for family members who wish to release doves individually. Doves can easily be released from carriers by the family without touching them.

NATURAL WICKER HEART SHAPED BASKETS - These lovely baskets hold up to five doves. The doves can be released as a small flock or individually by hand.

LARGER WHITE OR NATURAL WICKER BASKETS - These beautiful baskets are used for larger flock releases and hold up to 12 doves. Similar to the heart-shaped baskets, the doves can be released as a large flock or individually by hand.



HELD AND RELEASED BY HAND
The most personal release. We will always ask your families how they would like to release the doves by hand OR directly from the carriers or baskets.



OUR DOVES

OUR DOVES have been extensively and knowledgeably trained to navigate their way back home once released. Their safety and welfare is paramount to us.

WEATHER CONDITIONS - Some circumstances, mainly during Winter Months, will not allow a release to take place. For example; icy conditions, dense fog, hail or snow or strong winds and freezing temperatures.

We would normally contact you the day before the scheduled release to provide advanced warning of NO RELEASE. We will make our final decision on the morning of the release. Our decision, which is not always popular, is ultimately taken in the very best interest of our doves. No invoice will be issued or a full refund will be made if prepaid.

DOVES CANNOT FLY IN THE DARK - Nature has chosen that most birds cannot fly in the dark. Our doves are no different. We will make you aware at the point of booking if the release time is too late. On most occasions we can suggest an alternative time of release, possibly before the chapel service or at home before leaving.

HOURS OF DARKNESS - Please also note that daylight hours between the months of October to March govern the times of a release. We can release our doves no later than half an hour before sunset, these times can be found at: <http://www.timebie.com/sun/londonuk.php>

If you would like to meet our doves? Please email us your request. One of our dove handlers would gladly visit your branch when in your area.



The White Dove Company

Serving Funeral Directors & Bereaved Families Since 1991.

TWDC is the only dove release service that is a
member of both NAFD and SAIF.

Thank You.

© The White Dove Company 2018

W. www.thewhitedovecompany.co.uk

E. thewhitedovecompany@yahoo.co.uk

T. 020 8508 1414

F. 020 8502 2461

