
Writing and Submitting an Obituary for a Loved One

To write an obituary, begin with the decedent's name (listed with the last name first), followed by their age, the city and state where they lived, and the date of death. Many families choose to include the names of the decedent's immediate family members, but you may include any relatives or friends as desired. Details about services—such as the time, date, and location—are typically placed at the end of the obituary, along with any additional relevant information.

Families may submit an obituary to any newspaper of their choice. It is recommended that the family first draft the obituary, then contact the selected newspaper for submission. Most newspapers provide a phone number or email address within the obituary section of their print edition or website. Once submitted, the newspaper will provide a cost estimate, as fees vary. Pricing is generally based on factors such as the obituary's length or character count, the number of days it will run, and the duration of publication.

Below is an example obituary for reference:

Smith, John J., 98 of Boston, MA, passed peacefully in his home on May 5, 2013 after a long illness. Mr. Smith was predeceased by his parents _____ and _____ Smith, and is survived by his sisters _____ and _____ and brother. John was in the _____ business for many years and will be deeply missed and forever loved. Visiting hours will be from 4-6pm on May 6th at Casper Funeral Home. Graveside Funeral Services will be held on Saturday morning, May 7th, at 10 o'clock at Cemetery in Boston, MA. Please send on-line condolences to Casper Funeral Home at info@CasperFuneralServices.com.