

**Linda Davidson**  
August 3, 2023  
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Broken Bow, OK

**BOWSER FAMILY**  
Funeral Homes

Dear Audra,

Lately it has been weighing on me to make some end of life preparations. Not from any sense of impending doom, but because I want the challenge of that moment, when it comes, to feel eased by a clear expression of my hopes and intentions. I have made the necessary decisions and arranged the funding. All of this will be laid out in full detail in the course of this letter.

I have chosen you, my dear daughter, because It's a role you would want to have and because I believe that you have the most time and resources to handle it. Know that my choosing you speaks not only to the love and trust I have for you, but also to the strength, resilience, and wisdom that I see within you.

My goal in this letter is three-fold:

1. To give you clear and complete information laid out in an organized way that will serve as a roadmap for your efforts when the time comes
2. To ease any fear, uncertainty, or conflict that may arise about what I would have wanted or what is important to me, and
3. To share from my heart what you mean to me, what our family means to me, and to express my hopes for how you will move forward in life after my passing.

There is a considerable amount of detailed information I want to share here, and for ease of reference and reading, I'm going to organize this letter into sections, like a manual.

Woven throughout this pragmatic explanation, you will see my heartfelt expressions of love and appreciation. Please take these to heart. This is my way of being with you when I cannot be with you. Know (ever & always) that you are loved.



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The seeming permanence of this goodbye is painful. But what is broken can be strengthened in the reforming. Like the shininess of scar tissue, the scarred parts of our hearts can gleam even brighter than before. My hope in writing this letter to you now is that it will support you and empower you to rise up and shine bright.



## Why I Planned

It may seem an odd time for me to arrive at the activity of planning for my death. But then again, when wouldn't it seem odd? It's a strange but necessary part of life to consider. I decided to complete this planning now for a number of reasons, which I will lay out below:

- In summary, I want to leave costs as low as possible, so I can leave as much funding to you kids as possible.
- More specifically,
  - I recently lost people close to me. As you know, my mom's funeral wasn't planned, and I want to spare you what we went through. I experienced complex grief after that experience, and I don't want that stress for you.

My dad pre-planned and it spared us all of that stress, difficulty & expense when he passed.

- I don't want you to have to come up with money on a moment's notice to pay for my funeral arrangement, and I want to lock in the price of my funeral. I have life insurance, but I would like it to go toward bettering your future, rather than paying my final expenses.
- I don't want you to be so busy, distracted, and stressed with planning that you miss your own opportunity to grieve. I don't want to put a disproportionate burden of planning onto any one of you kids. I want you to feel protected & cared for by me even after I'm gone. And I don't want you to feel burdened by tough decisions while grieving.
- I don't want you to have conflict deciding how to split the costs between you. I worry that each of you might have differing ideas about how to do my arrangement, and I don't want you to argue about what you think I would want.
- I don't want to leave the door open for differing interpretations of the best way to honor my life. You kids are in varied seasons and financial positions and I don't want you to engage in heated comparisons trying to agree on what's fair.
- I don't want you to overspend when the time comes. I have concerns that some of the decisions made about my funeral would not align with my wishes. It's important to me that I take care of my own funeral arrangements and don't leave it to others to sort out. I have a clear vision of what I want and I want to see it through.

I want this plan to feel ironclad. I don't want a single lingering question. No room for worry, regret, second-guessing, or conflict. Let this be the final word and know it's all I wanted it to be.

Of course there is no way for me to know what might be going on in your life when the moment arrives for you to take on this role. I want you to know that you are not alone and that it is good (and expected!) that you will ask for help and lean on others. Lean on Trevor for support.



## The Funeral Home

I have elected to go with Bowser Family Funeral Homes for my funeral preplanning. They will hold a copy of my preplan record on file. When the time comes, the staff of Bowser Family Funeral Homes will make all accommodations for the preparation of my body, legal filing of the death certificate, and the orchestration of services and events.

I chose Reflection Pointe Memorial Garden for my final resting because I heard about it from a friend. Reflection Pointe Memorial Garden is a beautiful outdoor space in Oklahoma City where you may visit as you feel you want to. It is locally-owned and community-oriented. The staff at Reflection Pointe are another support resource for you to lean on and depend on through this time.



## What I Paid For

Concluding and commemorating a life is a considerable expense. The national average for an end of life arrangement is \$7500. My intention in making my arrangement was to spend something in the range of \$2500-\$4500, because my hope is to leave as much as possible to you and Trevor and the girls. What I'd like to outline here is what aspects of my arrangement are covered by my up-front investment, and which may be left owing at the time. I have elected to have a cremation because this is what feels authentic to me.

The individual pieces of an arrangement are divided into two categories: guaranteed and non-guaranteed. The guaranteed portion is everything that can be provided in-house by the funeral home. The non-guaranteed portion are other aspects of a complete arrangement that will be needed but will be provided by a third party. Since the provision of these services is outside the purview of the funeral home, they cannot be price guaranteed against inflation. However, we've done our best using statistical data to estimate how these items may increase over time and put extra financial allowances into the plan.



## My Arrangement Details

Below is a basic breakdown of the various components of my funeral plan that will be provided and price guaranteed by the funeral home:

- Cremation - \$2500 (includes all essential services of the funeral home)
- No public viewing or visitation
- Unfuneral to follow– allowance for tacos, margaritas & karaoke - \$200\*
- Most basic cremation casket - \$350
- Minimum alternative urn - \$50
- Tribute video - \$250
- 5 Copies of death certificate (\$21/first copy + \$15 addtnl) - \$81\*

\*These items are NON-GUARANTEED, meaning they may go up in price over time. I've added a \$100 buffer to protect against inflation, but if these TWO non-guaranteed items exceed the buffer, the balance will need to be paid at the time.

Everything else is PRICE GUARANTEED for a total of: \$3531. This expense & payment is on record at the funeral home & in a shared online portal, accessed securely by your email address.

I've planned the arrangement to support our family remembering and recreating the good times we've shared. It will be unconventional, less like a funeral and more like how we came together in life. Bring on the tacos, margaritas and karaoke!

I'd like the felt quality of my arrangement to be shaped by the following characteristics: Unconventional, Original, Creative, EcoConscious, Informal, Understated, Minimal, Private, Outdoors & Local.

I'd like to celebrate my connection to inner guidance and my love of nature. The aspect of my life I'd like to be most emphasized is my family and my athleticism. The 30 years I played tennis, my hiking peaks all over the world, and the wild good times I enjoyed riding Harley Davidson motorcycles. Though this will change depending on how near my time is, I anticipate that the number of people in attendance will be 10 to 50 people. Based on where my loved ones are primarily located I will not need to put aside additional funding to cover travel and lodging for them.

I'd like to customize and personalize my arrangements with my love for football, both OU and OSU because of my granddaughters, my love for music, the outdoors, and

riding Harley Davidsons. I chose my cremation casket and my urn to be the most minimal and basic styles available, as I do not want to have a viewing of any kind and I want my funds to go towards creating good times for my children and grandchildren.



## **My Obituary**

Apparently it is common practice now to have the funeral home place an obituary on their website and easily located in a Google search. In addition to these offerings, I'd like the wider community of Tulsa and my social circles to be notified of my passing by contacting a list of people I have made and social media notifications.



## **Details on Viewing & Care of My Body**

Statistically, the question of viewing (or visitation) is one of the most charged and controversial decisions of a funeral arrangement. For many people it is an uncomfortable or even scary prospect. For others, they feel they cannot find closure without it. I have given careful consideration to this matter and my preference would be for there to be no public viewing or visitation. I would also like to not be clothed while I am cremated. Why waste a good outfit? ;)



## **Cemetery Details**

I do not own cemetery property, though I am considering an ash burial space in the memorial garden at Reflection Pointe. I'd like my favorite child Pocolo's ashes buried with me.



## Death Certificates

There are certain entities that require a certified copy of the death certificate in order to close accounts, pay death benefits, etc. In my case, we've identified the following entities that will likely require a certified copy:

- 1 Life insurance policy
- 1 Pension/ IRA
- 1 Checking account
- 1 Savings account
- 1 Medicare policy
- 3 Utility accounts
- 1 Driver's license
- 1 additional copy to be copied for all entities that will accept unofficial copies
- 2 additional copies

Social security requires an official copy, but that will be provided by the funeral home as part of their service fee. I have built an allowance for two additional certified copies of the death certificate—one for your records and the other as a back-up for the unforeseen. The state of Oklahoma charges \$21 for the first copy of the death certificate and \$15 for each additional copy. The total designation for death certificates is \$21 (for the original) + 12 of copies x \$15 + \$2/copy to cover inflation over time, for a total of \$225.



## Repatriation

I have purchased repatriation protection because I occasionally travel, and I want to make provision should I die far from home. While this is not likely, it warrants protection because it could lead to the very outcome I am seeking to prevent: one of added stress, confusion, expense, or difficult decision-making. I have named you, Audra, as the emergency contact for the repatriation protection.

If I should pass far from home, you will still contact the funeral home directly, and the repatriation protection will bring me home from anywhere in the world at no

additional expense. This repatriation package will also arrange the necessary logistics to bring me home.

Simply notify the funeral home that I have purchased a repatriation package through APASI (American PreArrangement Services Inc, pronounced a-poss--ee), and they will coordinate to bring me home. If the repatriation plan is specified as cremation, the cremation will take place in the location where the passing occurred and the cremains will be returned; in the case of burial, the body will be returned. Once I'm in the care of the funeral home, the rest of this plan will proceed as laid out below.



## **What Happens When I Die**

If I should die at home or in hospice or hospital, there is no need for you to call 9-1-1. You will simply call Bowser Family Funeral Homes at (580) 583-3344 and tell them that I have passed and that I have a pre-arrangement in place with the funeral home. Someone from the funeral home will come to the place of my passing and bring me into the care of the funeral home. The staff will make the necessary preparations of my body, including dressing and casketing.

The funeral director will reach out to you within 24 hours of bringing me into their care and schedule a meeting with you. This meeting will be to review the plans I've laid out, to gather a few signatures that are necessary at time of passing, and to arrange dates and scheduling for my ceremony and final laying to rest. This should be a light workload for you, as everything has been decided and planned in advance. My hope is that your energies can go to connecting with family and friends, processing your grief, and giving yourself the rest and nurturance that you need.

In the days that follow the funeral director and staff will make all preparations for ceremonies, including filing the death certificate, orchestrating venues/speakers/musicians/catering, scheduling staff and the necessary vehicles for the ceremony, embalming/cosmetics or cremation, preparing programs/tribute videos/memorial table, scheduling cemetery services and personnel, and placing the obituary. As needed, the funeral director and staff will reach out to you for clarification or authorization. They will guide, assist, and support you through the entire process of my life tribute until I am finally laid to rest.





## How I Want My Funeral To Feel

Once again, I want this plan to feel ironclad. I don't want a single lingering question. No room for worry, regret, second-guessing, or conflict. Let this be the final word and know it's all I wanted it to be.

I love that we are a family of overcomers. Life has thrown a lot our way, but it hasn't kept us down. I've seen your struggles and your resilience. I want to thank you for choosing strength and courage. I am so proud of our family. It has been my life's greatest joy to know you and love you and share life's journey with all of you. I love that we are fun. We don't let life's difficulties separate us from the importance of enjoying what life has to offer. I love that you all are reliable. We have our troubles, but we always come through for each other. You all go above and beyond. We make grand gestures to show each other that we care. We take the time to really understand each other and to show up in the ways that matter.

I want this beautiful attribute of our family to be represented in my funeral services, so I've designed a ceremony that is Unconventional, Original, Creative, EcoConscious, Informal, Understated, Minimal, Private, Outdoors & Local. There are some special elements that I'd like to incorporate into my service to capture this.

I'd like my lifelong love of art to feature prominently in my life tribute. In lieu of a registration book, I'd like to have colorful ink pads and a blank canvas in the church foyer where each guest can stamp their thumb print and make a unique contribution to the final art piece of my life. Rather than a formal eulogy or sermon, I'd like for you and the kids to speak (if you want to – if not, that's perfectly okay – do what feels good for you) and then for you to open it up, open-mic style, for anyone who wants to speak.

Here's my hope for you: let nothing deter you from what you love to do. Always go toward your horizon. Enjoy your achievements and your plans. Rest and try to locate the gentle companion of your own spirit within you.

I love you always,

*Mom*