



# Guidelines for Including a Celebration of Life Ceremony in Your Estate Planning

## Organize the Cremation

Include clear and detailed instructions in your estate planning legal documentation for the cremation of the body and handling of the ashes, considering the following points:

- The body should be cremated in a facility that allows someone to take the ashes with them after the cremation. (Note: there are some countries that do not allow for this.) The cremation does not need to take place in India; only the ashes are required for the ceremony.
  - The entirety of the ashes do not need to be used for the *Celebration of Life Ceremony*. You will need to determine and document if you wish for a portion of the ashes to be distributed in another way. Please note, in the Vedic tradition it is advised that ashes **not** be stored in a home. They may be scattered in nature, kept at a memorial site, etc.
  - Designate a person/s who will organize and oversee the cremation of the body, receive the ashes, and collect the needed paperwork in order for the ashes to be transported internationally.
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## Om Jai Jai Sai Maa

### Organize the *Celebration of Life Ceremony*

- Designate who will arrange for your *Celebration of Life ceremony* through the Office of Sai Maa and make sure instructions for them are included in your legal documents. They will need to:
  - Contact [support@sai-maa.com](mailto:support@sai-maa.com) to register for the ceremony.
  - Be informed of who your chosen representative is for the ceremony (see below).
  - Have access to the allocated funds to register for the ceremony and pay for the associated costs for the travel of the ashes and your representative to Varanasi, India for the ceremony.
- Designate one person who will be the “representative” traveling to India with the ashes to participate in your *Celebration of Life Ceremony*. The representative will serve an active role in the ceremony, performing specific offerings and actions on behalf of your soul. This role is traditionally held by a close family member such as a spouse, child, parent, or sibling. You may also choose to designate a friend to perform this role.
- Timing of the ceremony: The *Celebration of Life Ceremony* traditionally takes place between 12 and 30 days after the soul has passed. The ceremony can, however, be performed up to 12 months after the passing.

### Allocate Necessary Funds

- In your estate planning documentation, give instructions on where the funds will come from for your *Celebration of Life Ceremony*. The current price is \$5,500 and this is subject to change over time. The price includes the 4 days of ceremonies and all of the necessary materials. Aside from the ceremony price, it is recommended to budget for all additional expenses, including cremation services, airfare to India for your representative, travel expenses for your representative while in India, etc.
- Consider putting funds aside now to cover all of the necessary expenses of the ceremony. From a karmic point of view, it is best for the funds for the *Celebration of Life Ceremony* to come from the finances of the deceased or a close family member. Sai Maa encourages us to set aside funds to cover all associated costs of whatever end-of-life services we may choose. Remember, the Office of Sai Maa will only take registration for a *Celebration of Life Ceremony* once someone has passed away. Any funds you put aside for the ceremony will need to be saved in a bank or location of your choice, ensuring that the necessary people have access to those funds when needed.

Do you have any additional questions? Please contact [support@sai-maa.com](mailto:support@sai-maa.com).

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