



## Writing an Obituary

In our situation, we had to write our own obituary. We grew up as preacher's kids so we have read a lot of obituaries and been involved in a lot of funerals. With that said, writing an obituary for your child is very different from any obituary you have read or helped write. We searched the internet to find ways to write an obituary for teenagers. You are welcome to do that to get additional ideas but we wanted to try and give you some help. Here is the example of Sammie's obituary and then additional information for you to consider.

Samantha Raye Caflisch went home to Jesus on July 27, 2020 at age 15. Sammie was born to Shannon Caflisch and Christy (Rhodes) Schultz on July 26, 2005 in San Antonio, TX.

Sammie attended Southeast Christian School from preschool through 5th grade. She then went to Sagewood Middle School and was currently attending Ponderosa High School. Sammie had a huge heart and wanted to help others when she grew up. She had been debating between being a counselor for teens dealing with depression or who have been victims of sexual assault or working as an SVU detective putting bad guys away.

Sammie loved Jesus. Both of her home churches, Southeast Christian Church and Crossroads Community Church, helped her grow in her faith. She loved pretty much all sports as a kid (soccer, basketball, volleyball, futsal, cross country, etc) but her passion landed on cheer, specifically competitive cheer. She enjoyed her teammates from her different Suns teams and her Ponderosa High School cheer team. She took her role very seriously, trying to never let a girl hit the ground, but also often got extra conditioning for the girls due to making them laugh. This past year Sammie also found a love for skiing and paddleboarding. More than sports, Sammie loved her friends. When you were Sammie's friend she loved hard and would do anything for you. She didn't care what others thought of her if it meant saving a friend. She was stubborn, beautiful, hilarious, frustrating, loving, sweet, challenging, sassy and a smart alec. She loved making others smile and feel safe. Her friends were so important to her, she always wanted to be with them or have them with our family. She will be so missed by all who knew her.

Sammie is survived by her parents, father Shannon Caflisch of Parker, mother Christy (Rhodes) Schultz and bonus dad Rick Schultz of Parker; one sister, Lizzie Caflisch; two brothers, Trenton Schultz and Cohlton Schultz; Amazing Grandparents Leonhard and Charlotte Caflisch of Independence, KS, Terri McDonald and Kent Whitehouse of Parker, CO, Dan and Susan Rhodes of Branson, MO, Dave and Nancy Harr of Cedar Hills, UT and Patty Schafer of Kremling, CO; Great Grandmother Maxine Rhodes; Loving Aunts and Uncles Sarah and John Leary,



Ashley and Devon Jarrett, Shelly and Jason Gibson, Marc and Carly Rhodes, Paul and Stacy Rhodes, Eric and Grace Rhodes, Tammy Schultz and Will Middleton, Joe Schultz, Shane and Brenda Harr, Jason and Cookie Harr; Fabulous Cousins Eric Gibson, Jamie Gibson, Baileigh Reister, Bella Arriola, Donovan Harr, AJ Arriola, Payton Jarrett, Emmi Reister, Chase Harr, Logan Jarrett, Julia Arriola, Lilly Jarrett, Maddy Reister, Olivia Harr, Hannah Jarrett, Brody Harr, Bryce Harr, Mya Harr, Griffin Harr, Erica Rhodes, Amy Jarrett, Brody Caflich, Jayce Rhodes, and Elon Rhodes; Great Aunts and Uncles Bill Caflich, Henry schaffer, Bob and Brenda Rhodes, Mike and Becky Qualls, Everett Long, John and Marcillia Long, Joy and Ken Edmonds, Carol and Norman Rash, Henry Schafer, and Tom Schafer. This list could go on and on as she has such a large family whose life she touched. She also leaves behind the best friends a girl could ask for.

Sammie's life was cut short due to a tragic car accident. We know accidents happen everyday and because Sammie loves you, please make sure to buckle up!

Let's look at the different things you want to include in the obituary.

- You want to begin by giving your loved ones name, age and where they were from.
  - If you are religious, you can include something here to share that. For example, we stated she “went home to Jesus”. Regardless of your religious beliefs, you could include that at this time if you would like. If not, you can simply say they passed away.
- Next is your opportunity to tell about your loved one. You do want to share some basic information, like where they grew up, what they did for a living or if they were still in school, major accomplishments, teams/clubs they were involved in, etc. After the basic information though, make it personal! What do you want to make sure the world knows about your loved one? For us, a big thing was including that “Sammie loved hard”. For those that knew her, this was an ultimate testament to that girl! What is it that you want to share because it defined your loved one?
- Who do you want to include that your loved one is survived by? Below are people to consider. We are a very close family and listed more than the typical obituary. Who you include is up to you. You can include by name or state multiple of “X” relationship.
  - Spouse and children (If children are married, provide spouse name and grandchildren)
  - Parents
  - Siblings
  - Grandparents
  - Aunts and Uncles



- Cousins
- Nieces and Nephews
- Friends - you would typically only list as “lots of great friends” rather than individual names unless there are friends that are more like family
- List people in the order that makes the most sense to you and your family. For example, Sammie was very close to her cousins and some of them she even considered her best friends. For that reason, we listed them all by name. Instead of listing them with their family group, we chose to list them from oldest to youngest.
- Is there anyone that preceded your loved one in death? You can choose to list those who passed before your loved one if it makes sense to you based on the relationship they had with your loved one.
- Is there any additional message you want to give to those reading? We wanted to tell everyone to buckle up so that was added at the end. If you have an additional message, add it at the end.
- You will also include the Celebration of Life information. You want to make sure you have details for where and when people can join you to celebrate your loved one, as well as if there is a place to make donations that you want to support. In our example, all of this information was in a different place on the funeral home’s website so it was not included in the obituary.
- Last, check and reread what you wrote! Have someone else check it for you as well. This will help ensure there are no errors and that you did not forget anything that might be important to you.

Need help, let us know! We are here to help you in any way that we can! We were caught off guard writing this obituary ourselves. To be honest, it was mostly written while we were crying and laughing at old stories at the nail salon getting pedicures. (Yes, the poor nail techs had to think we were insane!) The point is, do this when you can and where you are comfortable! Anything we can do to help, we are here for YOU!