

BEYOND THE DASH

Writing an Honest Obituary on Beyond the Dash

Submission Guidelines

If you are a direct relative entrusted with the obituary of a person who has passed, you control how their story is told. Beyond the Dash accepts brutally honest obituaries as long as they adhere to the following story submission guidelines. Ultimately, we reserve the right to reject submissions for any reason.

Use this checklist to ensure your loved one's life story meets Beyond the Dash submission standards.

The writer must have authority to publish the life story.

By submitting an obituary to Beyond the Dash, you certify that you have the authority as the next-of-kin or a close family member to publish a brutally honest version of a life story. Please submit verification of death in the form of a death certificate.

The obituary should tell the deceased person's full life story.

A full obituary may include biographical details such as place of birth, occupation, predecessors, survivors, achievements and passions. All details should be factual, accurate, and complete.

Allegations of a crime must be backed up by a charge or a conviction.

If the story mentions a crime, submit proof that the deceased was either charged or convicted. Stories must not allege criminal actions by anyone other than the deceased person.

Keep it civil.

We believe there is a difference between an obituary that is honest and a rant. Even a life story that is highly critical of the deceased person can be fair, balanced and educational for readers. See example below.

Understand your impact.

We believe families deserve an outlet. However, there can be consequences to publishing an honest obituary. The story may receive backlash from the family of the deceased or the community. By submitting a story to Beyond the Dash, you understand and assume the risks associated with writing an honest obituary.

Questions?

We're happy to help. Email us at hello@beyondthedash.com.

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Example

This is a sample of an acceptable honest obituary:

"It is with joy and relief that we announce the passing of a man who's missed by no one, Robert Smith. Robert was born on July 2, 1930, in Tulsa Oklahoma to parents Bob and Cindy Smith. He was a bright boy who excelled in math and achieved honors in every subject he studied.

Upon graduation from Tulsa High, and went on to complete a Bachelor of Engineering at the University of Tulsa. He worked at the same company, Birdge Engineering for 30 years before retiring in 1992. In 1955, he married his wife Nancy, with whom he shared two daughters.

He was an indiscriminate predator who looked for opportunities to bully anyone he could. Those who knew him casually or professionally would describe Robert as a quiet, measured man who donated extensively to the church. Those who lived under his roof could tell you a different story. He used this power to make victims of his wife Nancy and daughters Sarah and Becky, all who proudly survive him.

He was predeceased by his parents Bob and Cindy, grandparents Jacob and Mary Smith, and a host of other relatives who were lucky enough to escape his temper sooner than those who survive him.

Like many abusers, Robert's actions went unnoticed and unpunished by authorities. He died peacefully on Sunday, July 7, 2019. Though he is gone, the memory of his actions will never die. As we remember the life and failings of Robert, we look forward to a future in which this cycle of abuse is broken."

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