



HOW DO COSTS OF CREMATION COMPARE WITH BURIAL?

The basic charge for cremation alone may in some cases cost less than immediate burial costs, but often the costs are very comparable. In most cases, the choice between cremation and burial comes down to family preference.

DO WE NEED A FUNERAL DIRECTOR?

The funeral director performs the same professional functions with cremation as with burial, such as transportation of the body, acquiring necessary permits, and filing for death certificates. Often, a licensed professional is required by law to perform such tasks. Funeral directors are among those who carry such professional licenses.



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What are your wishes?



If cremation is something that you have considered, the following questions and answers may provide you and your family with the information you need to ensure that everything will be taken care of according to your wishes.

CAN I HAVE A SERVICE WITH CREMATION?

Yes. The purpose of a funeral or memorial service is to provide closure and help loved ones come to terms with the loss. The needs of the family should be carefully balanced with the wishes of the deceased. Sometimes, even if the deceased asked for a simple, no frills cremation, the family needs more in order to say goodbye...and that is okay.

HOW ARE CREMATION SERVICES DIFFERENT FROM OTHER SERVICES?

Cremation does not limit a family's choices for service options; on the other hand, cremation offers more choices than ever. If cremation is preferred, with proper planning, it is even possible to have a visitation with the body present or funeral service followed by cremation.



“Scatter my ashes at the edges of my garden, and in the afternoon when the blooms start to bend toward the west, just imagine I’m right there, watching over them. That is my wish.”

IS A CASKET REQUIRED?

No, a conventional casket is not required. A variety of cremation caskets and alternative containers are available. For a cremation service, a rental casket may be selected, in which the cremation container is placed during the service. After the service, the container is transported to the crematory.



WHAT OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR A FINAL RESTING PLACE?

The cremated body may be placed in a columbarium niche, buried in an urn garden, buried in an existing adult burial space, kept at home, or scattered. Portions may also be divided among family members or placed in cremation jewelry or other memorial items.

WHAT ABOUT SCATTERING?

Be sure to consult your local funeral director or prearrangement specialist about options for scattering in your area. Scattering may be done legally on private property with permission; however, public property falls under local ordinances, so planning ahead is very important.

WHAT MEMORIALIZATION OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

A permanent memorial helps give loved ones an opportunity to reflect and remember a special person for generations to come. For this purpose, a portion of the cremated body may be buried or inurned in a cemetery, even if a portion of the cremated body is scattered in a different place. Other options include a plaque at the scattering site, an engraved tree planted above a biodegradable urn, a memorial garden, a memorial fund to help others in need, or even a virtual memorial in the form of a website. The options are nearly endless; try to imagine what might help loved ones express their remembrance and love.