

### Planning for a Funeral

1. **Shop around in advance.** Compare prices from at least two funeral homes. Remember that you can supply your own casket or urn.
2. **Ask for a price list.** The law requires funeral homes to give you written price lists for products and services.
3. **Resist pressure to buy goods and services you don't really want or need.**
4. **Avoid emotional overspending.** It's not necessary to have the fanciest casket or the most elaborate funeral to properly honor a loved one.
5. **Recognize your rights.** Laws regarding funerals and burials vary from state to state. It's a smart move to know which goods or services the law requires you to purchase and which are optional.
6. **Apply the same smart shopping techniques you use for other major purchases.** You can cut costs by limiting the viewing to one day or one hour before the funeral, and by dressing your loved one in a favorite outfit instead of costly burial clothing.
7. **Plan ahead.** It allows you to comparison shop without time constraints, creates an opportunity for family discussion, and lifts some of the burden from your family.

### Prices to Check

Make copies of this page and check with several funeral homes to compare costs.

"Simple" disposition of the remains:	
Immediate burial	
Immediate cremation	
If the cremation process is extra, how much is it?	
Donation of the body to a medical school or hospital	
"Traditional," full-service burial or cremation:	
Basic services fee for the funeral director and staff	
Pickup of body	
Embalming	
Other preparation of body	
Least expensive casket	
Description, including model #	

Outer Burial Container (vault)	
Description	
Visitation/viewing — staff and facilities	
Funeral or memorial service — staff and facilities	
Graveside service, including staff and equipment	
Hearse	
Other vehicles	
Total	
<b>Other Services:</b>	
Forwarding body to another funeral home	
Receiving body from another funeral home	
<b>Other Services:</b>	
Cost of lot or crypt (if you don't already own one)	
Perpetual care	
Opening and closing the grave or crypt	
Grave liner, if required	
Marker/monument (including setup)	