



MEMORIAL ALTERNATIVES

A Burial & Cremation Service
2432 Fuller Avenue NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505
www.memorialalternatives.com
616.363.3700

Justin Adamec – Director/Manager

Authorization & Direction for Cremation and Disposition of Cremated Remains:

No cremation can take place without written, signed authorization from the closest Next-of-Kin of the deceased. The closest NOK is in order of authority as follows. SPOUSE, CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN, PARENTS, SIBLINGS, NIECES and NEPHEWS, GRAND-NIECES and NEPHEWS, GRANDPARENTS, AUNTS and UNCLES, FIRST COUSINS, and thereafter as follows: the number of persons within the same degree of Kinship must authorize the cremation as established by law.

The undersigned (Hereinafter referred to as the “Authorized representative(s)”) hereby certify that they are the closest living legal next-of-kin of the herein named deceased, having full, legal authority to authorize and direct the cremation, processing and disposition of the cremated remains of the deceased, authorize and direct MEMORIAL ALTERNATIVES to take possession of and make arrangements for the cremation, processing and disposition of the remains of the deceased:

_____ Date of death _____

Cremation will take place at Rosedale Crematory or Myrtle Park Crematorium. Cremated remains consist primarily of bone fragments, which are reduced to permit placement in an urn or other suitable container.

Pacemakers and prostheses, as well as any other mechanical, battery powered or radioactive devices or implants in the decedent, may create a hazardous condition when placed in the cremation chamber. It is imperative they be removed prior to cremation. If the funeral home is not notified about such devices and implants, and not instructed to remove them, then the person(s) authorizing the cremation will be responsible for any damages caused to the crematory or crematory personnel by such devices or implants. I have instructed the funeral home to remove or arrange for the removal of devices meeting the above listed criteria and to properly dispose of them prior to the cremation process taking place.

Disposition of Cremated Remains:

The undersigned agree to release and hold harmless MEMORIAL ALTERNATIVES, its affiliates and their agents, and employees, from any and all damages, liabilities, claims for relief or causes of action, including but not limited to costs, expenses, and attorney’s fees, in connection with the cremation and disposition of the cremated remains as authorized and directed herein.

By signing below, I am stating that I have read, understand and agree with this entire document, and that I, or an individual authorized by me and made known to MEMORIAL ALTERNATIVES staff will return to MEMORIAL ALTERNATIVES to collect my loved one’s cremated remains within thirty days of date of passing unless other arrangements have requested and agreed upon in writing.

Other Notes _____

***Memorial Alternatives will deliver the cremated remains to any local to us, cemetery at no extra charge. However, we do this at our convenience and that of the cemetery and cannot, nor will not guarantee the day of delivery. If a specific date or time is needed additional fees will apply.*

Signatures of Authorized Representatives for cremation and final disposition.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

SIGNATURE _____
RELATIONSHIP _____

SIGNATURE _____
RELATIONSHIP _____

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

SIGNATURE _____
RELATIONSHIP _____

SIGNATURE _____
RELATIONSHIP _____

The Cremation Process

All cremations are performed individually. Cremation is performed by placing the deceased in a casket or other container and placing them into a cremation chamber or retort, where they are subjected to intense heat and flame. During the cremation process, it may be necessary to open the cremation chamber and reposition the deceased to facilitate a complete cremation. Through the use of a suitable fuel, incineration of the container and contents is accomplished, and all substances are consumed or driven off, except bone fragments (calcium compounds) and metal and other nonhuman material as the temperature is not sufficient to consume them.

Due to the nature of the cremation process, personal possessions or valuable materials, such as jewelry, body prosthesis or dental work, which are left with the decedent and not removed from the casket or container prior to cremation will be destroyed or generally unrecognizable. If not destroyed, the crematory shall dispose of and/or recycle any non-combustible metallic items. The casket or container will not normally be opened by the crematory (to remove valuables, to allow for a final viewing or for any other reason). As such, arrangements must be made with the funeral home to remove any possessions or valuables prior to the time that the decedent is transported to the crematory.

Following a cooling period, the cremated remains, which will normally weigh several pounds in the case of an average size adult, are then swept or raked from the cremation chamber. The crematory makes a reasonable effort to remove all the cremated remains from the cremation chamber, but it is impossible to remove all of them, as some dust and other residue from the process are always left behind.

After the cremated remains are removed from the cremation chamber, all non-combustible materials (insofar as is possible), such as bridgework, and materials from the casket or container, such as hinges, latches, nails, etc., will be removed from the human bone fragments by visible or magnetic selection and will be disposed of and/or recycled by the crematory with similar materials from other cremations in a non-recoverable manner.

When the cremated remains are removed from the cremation chamber, the skeletal remains often contain recognizable bone fragments. They will then be mechanically processed (pulverized). These granulated particles of unidentifiable dimensions will be unrecognizable as human remains.

After the cremated remains have been processed, they will be placed in the designated urn temporary container. The crematory will make a reasonable effort to put all the cremated remains in the container, with the exception of dust or other residue that may remain on the processing equipment. In the event the container is insufficient to accommodate all the cremated remains, the excess will be placed in a separate receptacle. The separate receptacle will be kept with the primary receptacle and handled according to the disposition instructions on the cremation authorization form.

The crematory and funeral home require that all urns or containers provided by the family of the deceased from an outside vendor be appropriate for shipping or permanent storage, and in the case of a deceased adult, it is recommended that the urn or container be a minimum size of 200 cubic inches.

Cremation is not final disposition, nor is leaving the cremated remains in storage at a Funeral Home final disposition. The cremation process simply reduces the decedent's body to cremated remains. These cremated remains usually weigh several pounds and measure in excess of 150 cubic inches. Some provision must be made for the final disposition of these cremated remains. Therefore, we mandate that arrangements for the final disposition be made at the time cremation arrangements are being made and the cremation authorization is completed. Possible options for final disposition are, interment at a cemetery of your choice, scattering observing legal regulations or retaining possession of the cremated remains by a family member.

If the final disposition of the cremated remains has not been completed within the time allotted by law, the Funeral Home and Crematory shall be authorized to arrange for the final disposition of the cremated remains in any manner permitted by law. Such final disposition may include options that render the cremated remains of the decedent unrecoverable.