

Question: What burial benefits are available to veterans?

Answer: All qualifying veterans are entitled to receive a bronze grave marker, a flag, and the presentation of the flag at a graveside service. The funeral director will need a copy of the discharge papers (DD-214) to arrange this. A Veteran and their spouse may also qualify for burial at the Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery. If this is something you would like to do, your funeral director can guide you through process.

Question: If we choose cremation, can we still have an opportunity to have some last moments with our loved one before the cremation?

Answer: In most cases yes. If you choose not to embalm, most funeral homes will allow the immediate family an opportunity to have what we call an ID Viewing. If you would like to have a public visitation, then embalming would be necessary for health reasons.

Question: How can we know for sure the funeral home we choose is handling everything in an ethical and honest manner?

Ask around to others that have used the services of the funeral home. Check for online or Facebook reviews. Pay a visit to the funeral home, and ask them the hard questions.

Question: If I am cremated, can I be buried with my spouse even if he or she was in a casket?

Answer: Yes! Depending upon the cemetery's policy, you may be able to save a grave space by having the cremated remains buried on top of the casketed remains of your spouse, or utilize the space provided next to him/her. Many cemeteries allow for multiple cremated remains to be interred in a single grave space. Your funeral director can assist you with arranging this.



**An
Information
Guide**

*A Question and Answer
Guide to Planning
Funerals and Cremations*

Compliments of:
Vilonia Funeral Home
(501) 796-2275

Question: Why Have A funeral?

Answer: Funerals fill an important role for those mourning the loss of a loved one. By providing surviving family and friends with an atmosphere of care and support in which to share thoughts and feelings about death, funerals are the first step in the healing process. It is the traditional way to recognize the finality of death. Funerals are recognized rituals for the living to show their respect for the dead and to help survivors begin the grieving process.

Question: Do I have to make different funeral arrangements if I choose Cremation?

Answer: It really depends entirely on how you wish to commemorate a life. One of the advantages of cremation is that it provides you with increased flexibility when you make your funeral and cemetery arrangements. You might, for example, choose to have a funeral service before the cremation; a memorial service at the time of cremation or after the cremation with the urn present; or a committal service at the final disposition of cremated remains. Funeral or memorial services can be held in a place of worship, a funeral home or in a crematory chapel.

Question: Should I choose burial or Cremation?

Answer: Burial in a casket is the most common method of disposing of remains in the United States, although entombment also occurs. Cremation is increasingly selected because it can be less expensive and allows for the memorial service to be held at a more convenient time in the future when relatives and friends can come together.

A funeral service followed by cremation need not be any different from a funeral service followed by a burial. Usually, cremated remains are placed in urn before being committed to a final resting place. The urn may be buried, placed in an indoor or outdoor mausoleum or columbarium, or interred in a special urn garden that many cemeteries provide for cremated remains.

Question: What If I pay for my funeral in advance and the funeral home where my funeral is arranged goes out of business? How am I protected?

Answer: All preplanned funeral contracts in the state of Arkansas are governed through the Arkansas Department of Insurance. In the event that a funeral home goes out of business, the State of Arkansas will oversee your burial policy or prearrangement and make sure you receive the services you paid for at any funeral home you choose.

Question: Do funeral homes normally finance services if my family doesn't have any money, or insurance?

Answer: It depends on the funeral home. Most funeral homes require payment in full before services are rendered, however it is likely that a funeral home will finance a portion of the costs. Some funeral homes work with third party lenders to assist a family with getting a loan to cover funeral costs. If finances are an issue, take some time to shop around to various funeral homes. Find a funeral home that will work with you and your budget.

Question: Are All Funeral Homes The Same?

Answer: Sadly, the answer is no. While funeral homes may offer many of the same services, the price differences between two funeral homes in the same area can be within thousands of dollars. Additionally, there are corporate owned funeral homes, and locally owned family funeral homes. Some funeral homes only provide minimal services such as direct cremations or immediate burials, while other firms are full service funeral homes.

Question: In an effort to save money, can I purchase my casket from another provider?

Answer: You can purchase a casket from any vendor you choose, and even manufacture your own if you wish. It is illegal for a funeral home to refuse to accept a casket from a third party, or penalize you for going another route.

Question: Does the law require me to purchase a vault?

Answer: No! However, many cemeteries require that at least a concrete grave liner so the grave will not sink in. If you do not want to purchase a grave vault or burial liner, then you should choose a cemetery that does not require one.

Question: I am not religious, can I have a non-religious funeral ceremony?

Answer: Absolutely! The funeral ceremony is a time to reflect on the memories of the deceased, and time for the family to get closure. A funeral ceremony can be held at the funeral home, a graveside, a community center, or any other venue. There is no rule of the thumb that mandates a funeral has to be conducted in a church with a minister or priest. If you wish to have a secular service, you can choose a funeral celebrant or your funeral director can guide you on how to have a meaningful non-religious service.

Question: I am prearranged at another funeral home, but have since changed my mind about the funeral home I want to use is my prearrangement transferrable?

In most cases yes! You need to be aware that you could be penalized by the funeral home you are transferring from, and it may not be in your financial interest to do so. Make sure you read the fine print and talk to the funeral directors at both locations to make sure that what you are doing is in your best interest.