



Understanding the Costs Surrounding the Day of Your Death and the Days After

It is important prepare for final arrangements. We would like to share some information and tips. Chatham County Council on Aging is not affiliated with, nor endorses any specific service or provider.

Options:

- Burial
- Cremation
- Donate Body to Science
- Alkaline Hydrolysis

Typical costs associated with “Traditional” Funeral Home-involved service and burial:

- Funeral home service fees
- Transportation of the body
- Embalming and preparing for viewing
- Staffing fees to manage the viewing and funeral ceremony
- Printing fees for memorial booklets or videos
- Casket
- Flower arrangements
- Officiant fees
- Hearse and service vehicle fees
- Burial fees
- Cemetery plot

| Service Type | N.C. Average Cost |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Basic services | \$2,087 |
| Embalming | \$700 |
| Transportation of Remains | \$370 |
| Casket | \$4,155 |
| Facility/Staff Use | \$412 |
| Other Burial Container | \$7,450 |
| Direct Burial | \$2,722 |
| Cemetery Plot | \$2282 |

Cremation Options

Cremation with a traditional funeral service is the most expensive cremation option. The more options you include, such as funeral service or viewing, the more you can expect to pay.

Cremation with a simple memorial service can reduce some of the cost. With this option, friends and family would be able to gather to celebrate your loved one’s life and legacy. The body wouldn’t be present, which would eliminate the need to pay for embalming and preparatory services or a casket rental.

Direct cremation with no service is the least expensive option if you want to maintain the person’s ashes. With this option, there is no funeral or memorial service. The body is not embalmed or displayed for viewing. Instead, the person is cremated, and their ashes returned to you in a basic container. You may pay more if you decide to purchase a more expensive urn.

Cremation with body donation, is the least expensive of the cremation options. With this type of cremation service, you agree to donate your loved one’s body to science. In exchange, the body is cremated at no cost to you. The trade-off, however, is that you don’t get to keep the ashes.

*Is information on this flyer incorrect or outdated? If so, please report it to (919) 742-3975.

How do I donate a body to science?

Individuals interested in whole body donation should contact the schools below for more information. The family is financially responsible for transporting the body to the medical school of their choice. Schools of medicine do not always have a need for human bodies for anatomical studies and may refuse to accept a donation:

- Duke University Medical Center (919) 681-5471
- East Carolina School of Medicine (252) 744-2849
- University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill (919) 966-4131
- Wake Forest School of Medicine (336) 716-4369; (336) 716-2100 (evenings/weekends)
- High Point University (336) 841-5433

Alkaline Hydrolysis:

This option is a chemical process that reduces a body to components of liquid and bone ash. It is considered a greener alternative to cremation because it uses less energy than cremation and does not release matter into the atmosphere. The remains are returned to the family. Currently, Clay-Barnette Funerals, Cremations and Aquamation Center in Shelby and King, N.C. and Tranquility Cremation by Aquamation in Wilmington, N.C. are the only facilities licensed to provide this service in North Carolina. Their prices start at \$1,995.00. They will transport the body to their facility for an additional charge.

Your Rights - The Federal Trade Commission's Funeral Rule:

- Buy only the funeral goods/services you want.
- Get price information on the telephone.
- Get a written, itemized price list when you visit a funeral home.
- See a written casket price list before you see the actual caskets. (Sometimes lower-priced products may not be on display.)
- See a written outer burial container price list.
- Receive a written statement after you decide what you want, and before you pay.
- Request a written statement from the funeral home that includes any legal cemetery or crematory requirement that requires you to buy any funeral goods or services.
- Consider an "alternative container" instead of a casket for cremation. They may be made of unfinished wood, pressed wood, fiberboard, or cardboard. (A simple pine casket was found on sale on-line for \$799 plus tax)
- Provide the funeral home with a casket or urn you buy elsewhere.

Sources:

www.perfectgoodbyes.com/north-carolina-cemetery-burial-plot-costs/

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0300-ftc-funeral-rule>

<https://www.lhlic.com/consumer-resources/north-carolina-insurance/>

<https://www.watnotfire.com/about-us/>

www.claybarnette.com

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