

The Insider's Guide

TO FUNERAL & CREMATION PLANNING

Courtesy of your local Dignity Memorial® provider



A funeral or memorial service not only gives your loved ones a sense of closure, it's a celebration of your life. Whether you choose cremation or traditional burial, this guide will help you design a tribute that's uniquely you.



Plan ahead for peace of mind

Making funeral, cremation and cemetery arrangements before they're needed isn't something most of us want to think about, but by planning in advance—and in detail—you can alleviate the stress your loved ones may feel if they have to guess what you would have wanted and then find the money to pay for it.

Planning ahead can help your family cope with your death and will allow them to focus on honoring your life and comforting one another. When you plan today for tomorrow's needs, you can also design a service exactly as you'd like it. Whether an intimate gathering or a grand catered event, it's all up to you.

[GET STARTED](#)

*Offerings vary by location.
Catering is not offered where prohibited by law.*



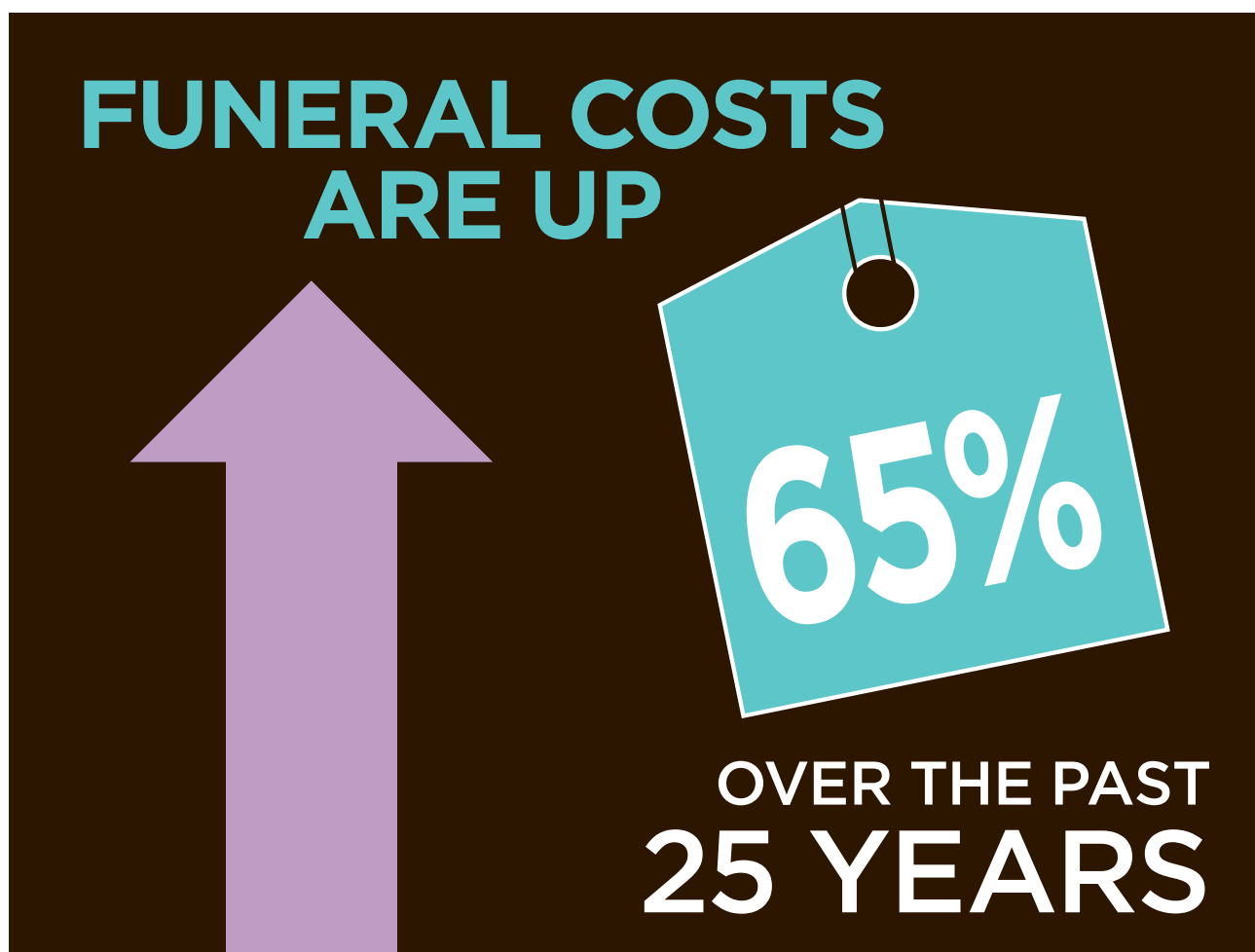
12 steps to planning ahead

- 1 Learn about your options
- 2 Think about your preferences
- 3 Consider your family's wishes
- 4 Contact your local Dignity Memorial provider
- 5 Understand pricing and establish a budget
- 6 Discover why insurance may not be enough
- 7 Review Medicaid assistance
- 8 Understand veterans benefits eligibility (if applicable)
- 9 Create your plan
- 10 Pay in full or set up manageable monthly payments
- 11 Share your plans with your family
- 12 Periodically review your plans

Protect your loved ones and your money

Putting a plan together allows you to design a meaningful final tribute and lets your family know what your final wishes are. But only prearranging with a professional and paying for your service in advance takes care of the actual expenses ahead of time.

Prepaying for funeral, cremation and cemetery plans has two big benefits. First, it provides relief for your family. When you prepay, you help eliminate the burden of your family having to pay at the time of need. Second, funding your plan now protects against inflation by locking in today's prices.



Source: NFDA General Price List Survey, National Funeral Directors Association, Brookfield, WI. The national median cost for a funeral with viewing was \$8,300 in 2023. In 1998, the cost was \$5,020. This represents an increase of \$3,280.

Understand costs and lock in prices

All funeral homes are required by law to provide you with a clear, itemized list of prices for merchandise and services offered and chosen. In addition to items that may seem obvious, like a casket or urn, and service details like flowers, music or mementos, there are some standard fees that may not be top of mind.

When someone dies without a prepaid plan, that person's family has to pay the funeral home in full when they make funeral or cremation arrangements. When you make arrangements ahead of time, you can carefully consider your budget and pay in full or in manageable monthly payments.

PLAN NOW

2023 MEDIAN PRICES



Cremation with viewing and memorial:

\$6,280



Traditional funeral with viewing before burial:

\$8,300

Source: NFDA General Price List Survey, National Funeral Directors Association, Brookfield, WI. The national median cost for a funeral with viewing does not include a vault; the national median cost for cremation with viewing and a memorial does not include a casket and urn.



Celebrate your traditions, beliefs and passions

A funeral, memorial or celebration of life is unlike any other event. It's the culmination of a lifetime distilled into a singular tribute. From a simple gathering to a more elaborate affair, the most memorable events are planned with attention to detail and include personal touches that reflect the life being honored.

When you plan with us, you get a service exactly how you want it. You have the opportunity to design an event limited only by your imagination, and a personalized experience is our standard of care. Every service we plan can include meaningful music, cherished memories and a unique message at no extra charge.



Create a lasting legacy

Whether your choice is traditional burial or cremation, a permanent place of remembrance can bring a tremendous sense of peace and comfort to your family and friends. A final resting place in a memorial park gives loved ones a place to visit and reflect for generations to come.

Our cemeteries include traditional properties that align with religious preferences, uplifting gardens that balance mourning with celebration, parklike settings of peace and beauty, and cremation memorials you may not be aware of. Plus, our associates know how to help families plan to stay together.



Keep these things in mind when choosing a funeral home or cemetery

We know that planning a funeral or cremation isn't something families do every day. It's important to understand that not all providers are the same, and there are many things that set us apart. When talking to different providers, look for:

- 1 Qualified and caring professionals who will take the time to listen, address your concerns and work with your budget.
- 2 A business with a positive reputation within your community, and with grounds, roads and buildings that are in good physical condition.

3

A full-service establishment that offers a range of options that address your religious, cultural and personal preferences.

4

A funeral home or cemetery that adheres to the law by providing you with clear, itemized pricing information.

When you're ready to get started, we're here to help.

FIND A PROVIDER

The Dignity Memorial® brand name is used to identify a network of licensed funeral, cremation and cemetery providers that compose the Dignity Memorial network. The Dignity Memorial network includes affiliates of Service Corporation International, 1929 Allen Parkway, Houston, TX, as well as many other fine, independently owned and operated establishments.

Dignity®
MEMORIAL