

# Preparing for a Funeral



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HOSPICE

Ask for Hope

# Preparing for a Funeral

One of the more difficult things you may ever have to do is plan a funeral. This booklet, along with the Hope Hospice staff, is designed to help you by providing information, written and verbal resources and community contacts as you progress through the planning of a funeral or memorial service.

We realize that funerals can be very expensive, and cost can easily escalate based on emotions as well as input and request from family members and close friends. Do not despair; it is possible to plan a dignified memorial to fit any budget. The Hope Hospice staff is here to assist you with as little or as much help as is necessary. Our Social Workers and Chaplains are uniquely qualified to assist you in your preparations.

We encourage you to begin making plans as soon as possible. It is easier to make decisions ahead of time when grief is not as overwhelming. This allows everyone to have input about preferences, especially the person who is dying.

## **The following information will be necessary when making funeral arrangements:**

- Full legal name of the deceased, including birth name if different from current name, i.e. maiden name, assumed name, etc.
- Last residence of the deceased (address, city, state, zip)
- Date and place of birth (County, city, state)
- Social Security number
- Marital status (single, married, widowed or divorced)
- Surviving spouse or next of kin's name, including maiden name, date of birth and Social Security number
- Father's full legal name and mother's full legal name, including maiden name
- Place of burial or disposition of ashes
- If veteran: Discharge paper, DD214 form

## **For full funeral home service, including viewing and burial, you may need to provide the following:**

- Clothing for the deceased to wear at the service and for burial, including underclothing: shoes are optional

- Personal makeup for women, if there is a viewing
- Recent photograph: helpful for doing makeup & hair
- List of all pallbearers' names
- Data for obituary (Obituary is optional; check the cost.) List: clubs, organizations, honors, family members both survived by and preceded in death by, life accomplishments, known for ..., etc. You may write this yourself
- Name of organizations to receive memorials, if desired
  - Hope Hospice, church, disease-specific support organizations, etc.
- A copy of the burial policy, if any
- Proof of prepaid arrangements, or any insurance policy, that pays for any part of the cost associated with a funeral/memorial service

## **Funeral home services may include:**

- Coordination with clergy, cemetery or crematory
- Coordination of details for burial in another area, including transportation arrangements
- Assistance with Veterans Administration claims
- Notification of Social Security Administration
- Certified copies of Death Certificate (Request at least 5 copies, more depending on the number of insurance, government and financial assets)
- Preparation of newspaper obituary notices
- Assistance with insurance claims

- Caskets and urns

## **Other services that funeral homes may include:**

- Clothing
- Flowers
- Memorial folders or prayer cards
- Special Music
- Pre-arranged funeral plans
- Cremation
- Willed body programs, i.e. “Organ donation” or “Donation of body to science”

## **Alternative options that assist in keeping cost down:**

- Hold the visitation and/or funeral services at home, a church or the Hope Hospice Chapel.
- Hope Hospice Chaplains may be available to conduct funeral services.
- A police escort may or may not be necessary. Cars may go individually to the cemetery.
- Cremation instead of burial
- Willed body program / Organ donation

## **Questions to ask when planning a**

## **Burial Service:**

### **1. Am I speaking to a licensed funeral director?**

*Although anyone can quote prices over the phone, only a licensed funeral director can make funeral arrangements with the family.*

### **2. Is embalming required for a visitation service at your funeral home?**

*Some funeral homes may require embalming if there is to be an open casket visitation, to allow the best presentation of your loved one, or if the burial will occur more than 24 hours after death.*

### **3. Is embalming required for transportation of the body to another location?**

*Because of the rapid deterioration of the body, Texas law requires that bodies held for over 24 hours or in transit must be embalmed, refrigerated or encased in a leak and odor proof container. Although embalming is not required by Texas law, most carriers will require it before shipping a body. The laws of the destination country or state apply.*

### **4. Are we required to purchase a casket?**

*Technically, a casket is not required for a burial, but the cemetery may require special vaults for this situation.*

## **5. What is the cost of a casket?**

*Caskets are merchandise items that can differ in price from funeral home to funeral home.*

*Caskets do not have to be purchased from the funeral home.*

## **6. How do we select a funeral director?**

*If you need a funeral director, the reference of a relative or friend who has been served satisfactorily is one way to make a decision.*

*The best way to know in advance whom you would select is to visit the funeral home, examine the facilities and ask about the prices.*

*Consider all your alternatives and consult several different firms to compare costs. Be prepared to ask questions concerning all aspects of the funeral arrangements.*

## **7. How do we learn about funeral costs?**

*Funeral establishments are required to give current retail price information by telephone.*

*By law, any consumer entering an establishment and making inquiries must be presented a general price list, which itemizes the costs of funeral services and the merchandise for sale at that facility.*

## **8. If I purchase a casket from a source other than the funeral home which provides burial services, will there be an**

## **additional charge?**

*Please discuss this with the funeral director. In general, funeral homes work with families on these matters.*

## **9. Is payment expected in full, or are payment options available?**

*Most funeral homes will expect payment to be made in full at the time arrangements are made. This is normally done through cash, check, credit card, prepaid funeral plan, insurance policy or a combination of these options.*

## **10. Do you accept pre-need policies purchased from other funeral homes or insurance policies?**

*Most life insurance and prearrangement policies can be assigned to the funeral home of your choice.*

## **11. Are there any additional charges that may be incurred?**

*Funeral arrangements can cost anywhere from approximately \$7000 to tens of thousands of dollars. The cost is directly proportionate to the services and amenities selected. There are also some charges that are not controlled by the funeral homes. These include cemetery charges,*

*crematory charges, obituary notices and police escorts. It is Texas State law and your right to receive a written, itemized accounting of the services you have requested before you sign any contract or agreement for services.*

## **Questions to ask when cremation is chosen instead of burial:**

### **1. Is it possible to have a service prior to or after the cremation?**

*Yes, visitation or memorial services may be set up according to the family's wishes. Arrangements can be made through the funeral director or on your own.*

### **2. Is a casket required for the cremation process?**

*The law requires a cremation container, which is rigid for easy handling and made of combustible materials to be used for all cremations. All crematoriums provide these containers; ask if the cost is included in the quoted cremation price if it's an extra cost. Embalming and casket are not required for cremation.*

### **3. What is the charge for the cremation service?**

*Cremation may be handled through the funeral director of the*

*family's choice or, to save cost, you may deal with the crematorium directly. However, they usually will not be able to help you with a memorial service, visitation facilities or other services (charges for all services not directly associated with the cremation are established by the funeral home). Costs may include the cremation fee, transportation fee, cost of the cremation container and charges associated with the services furnished by the funeral home. Cemetery and mausoleum fees are normally incurred and paid separately. Approx cost \$600-\$3000*

#### **4. What type of container will the crematory use for housing the final remains? What are the costs of container choices?**

*Cremated remains can be returned to you in a wide selection of containers. These vary dramatically in both look and cost. Please discuss your options with your funeral home or the crematorium.*

# Funeral Home & Other Services Directory\*

## New Braunfels Area:

Doepenschmidt	830-625-3434
Sunset Memorial Oaks	830-626-2020
Lux Funeral Home	830-624-0500
Zoeller Funeral Home	830-625-2349

## Canyon Lake Area/Bulverde:

Doepenschmidt	830-964-3050
Finch Funeral Home	830-582-1521

## Seguin Area:

Crenshaw Funeral Home	830-303-2208
Goetz Funeral Home	830-379-2313
Lee Chapel West Mortuary	830-379-2698
Eunke & Lee Mortuary	830-379-1773
Palmer Mortuary Inc.	830-379-9430
Tres Hewell Mortuary	830-549-5912
Finch Funeral Home (Nixon,LaVernia)	830-582-1521

## San Marcos Area:

All Faiths Funeral Services	512-326-8878
Tri-County Legends FH	512-259-1220
Los Angeles Funeral Home	512-392-3676
McCurdy Funeral Home (Lockhart)	512-398-4791
Pennington Funeral Home	512-353-4311
Thomason Funeral Homes	512-396-2300
Heart of TX Cremation & Burial	512-234-7277
Neptune Society Cremation (Austin)	512-829-3752

## Wimberley Area:

Pennington Funeral Home	512-847-9018
Thomason Funeral Homes	512-847-2226

**Schertz Area:**

Funeral Caring USA	210-822-4445
Schertz Funeral Home	210-658-9224
Colonial Funeral Home	210-658-7037
Bell & Bell Funeral Home & Cremations	210-657-2273

**San Antonio Area:**

Cremation San Antonio	210-599-2660
Funeral Caring USA	210-661-5001
Meadow Lawn Crematory	210-661-3991
Mission Park	210-924-4242
Mission Park Chapels North	210-227-8221
Mission Park/Retama Cemetery	210-967-4242
Olinger-Saenz Mortuary Services	210-828-2811
Porter Loring (North)	210-495-8221
Puente & Sons Funeral Home (North)	210-653-6536
Puente & Sons Funeral Home (South)	210-533-5300
Sunset Memorial Park & Funeral Home	210-828-2811
Sunset NW Funeral Home	210-521-2111
Neptune Society (Cremation)	210-647-1452
Trevino Funeral Home	210-227-6281

**Kyle Area:**

Kyle Harrell Funeral Home	512-268-8200
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**Universal City Area:**

Colonial Funeral Home	210-658-7037
Sunset North	210-495-7770
Sunset Northwest	210-521-2111

<b><u>Texas Funeral Service Commission</u></b>	512-936-2474
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### **Willed Body Programs**

Genesis <a href="http://www.genesislegacy.org">www.genesislegacy.org</a>	877-288-GIVE
Med Cure <a href="http://www.medcure.org">www.medcure.org</a>	866-560-2525
Univ. of TX <a href="http://www.uthsc.sa.edu/willedbody">www.uthsc.sa.edu/willedbody</a>	210-567-3800
TX State Forensic Anthropology	512-245-1900

\*This list may not be complete. Please check your yellow pages for a more extensive list.

Notice: Hope Hospice provides no money or financial assistance toward the cost of a funeral. We are here to provide counseling, support, information and assistance. There is also a free website (**[www.funeralwise.com](http://www.funeralwise.com)**) that has more detailed information on many related subjects. Also, Hope Hospice has a small chapel you may use (depending on availability) to conduct a service.

### ***At the Time of My Death***

- Decide who will do what tasks
- Contact those who will take on responsibilities
- Have someone write down every decision made

I would like my body to be :

buried      cremated

# Grief Counseling

Our counselors are experienced in working with grieving adults, children and families. We will meet with you in person to discuss your own grief experience and create a plan that will best meet your needs.

If your loved one was served by Hope Hospice, there is no fee for counseling. For community clients seeking counseling, we offer a sliding fee scale based upon your current financial situation and need. Fees are decided and agreed upon during the intake interview and may be adjusted whenever there is a significant change in income or financial status. There is no fee for intake interviews.

## Telephone Calls

Our counseling team is available to speak with you over the phone if you have a question or special concern. For more in-depth assistance, we recommend you take the first step in your healing journey by calling (830) 358-5300 to schedule an initial visit.

## Support Groups

It is important to recognize that you are not alone and support is **available**. **Groups help you meet** others who have had experiences similar to yours and learn important coping skills. There are no support groups available at this time due to COVID-19 restrictions. Please call **830-358-5300** with any questions.

## Special Events

We offer emotional support and education year-round. These events include Help Through the Holidays, Potluck Socials, children's grief services, camps and memorial services.

**For the Families of Our Patients**

Our patients and their families also have access to anticipatory grief counseling, periodic follow-up phone calls, letters sent to the home which provide education on the grief process and an opportunity to participate in the Annual Memorial Quilt.



**New Braunfels Office**

611 N Walnut Ave 830-625-7500

**Bulverde/Spring Branch Office**

29710 US Hwy 281 N Suite 200

210-686-3131