

Cremation and Funeral Practices

A member of ...

Selected Independent Funeral Homes

- Founded in 1917 as National Selected Morticians
- Membership by invitation only – nearly 2,000 global members
- The world's leader in setting the business and ethical standards for funeral practices
- Promotes locally-based, independent ownership as the best way to assure best practices in funeral services
- All members are required to abide by a code of best funeral practices which is rigorously enforced



A member of ...

Selected Independent Funeral Homes

- *We believe the interests of consumers and their communities are best served when funeral services and ceremonies are planned and managed by the families and local leaders you know and trust.*
- *Our members – many who have been serving families for generations – combine their roots in the local community with innovation, flexibility, to set the world's highest standards for funeral service practices*

Your rights and funeral services

- Every consumer, regardless of their funeral service preference, should know their rights ...
 - The right to choose the exact type of funeral goods and services
 - no more or no less – than is appropriate for your needs
 - The right to receive information, in writing, before any decisions and purchases are made (General Price List)
 - The right to purchase a casket or other funeral-related item from someone other than the funeral home
 - The right to personalize your service to your needs

Your rights and funeral services

- The right to take the time you need to make your decisions regarding ceremonies and funeral services
- The right to change funeral directors or funeral service providers if you are not satisfied with their services
- The right to have alternative containers available from funeral providers that perform cremations

Cremation

- Cremation is not ...
 - A type of funeral Service
 - The final disposition of the remains
- Cremation is ...
 - Simply a process of reducing the remains to ash and bone using high heat and flame

Origins of Cremation

- Cremation has always been a common practice; its origins date to 3000 B.C. in Europe & the Near East
- By the time of Homer (800 B.C.) was the preferred method of disposition of soldiers.
- The Roman Empire embraced cremation, and stored Urns in elaborate buildings similar to a modern day columbarium.
- The practice of cremation as we know it today was begun by Queen Victoria's surgeon Sir Henry Thompson
- The first modern crematoriums were built in Woking, England, and Gotha, Germany in 1878

Cremation and Religion

- The majority of Christian faiths have no objection to cremation
- The Catholic faith holds that cremated remains should be interred, instead of scattered
- In Hinduism, cremation is an essential part of the religious practice
- Because Buddha was cremated, many Buddhists follow the same path
- Faiths that prohibit cremation include Islam, Orthodox Judaism, and Eastern Orthodox religions

Misconceptions about Cremation

- A casket is not needed for cremation
- Embalming is not required for cremation
- The immediate family can view the body prior to cremation with out having to pay for embalming
- It is possible for the family to view the cremation
- Urns can be brought into churches, and take the place of a casket during a funeral service.

Cremation Trends

- Today, nearly 26% of Americans are cremated after death.
- The percentages vary greatly by region. Some of the states with the highest cremation rates are:
 - 46% in Florida
 - 44% in Maine
 - 59% in Nevada
 - 54% in Arizona
- 45% of deaths in Canada result in cremation

Cremation Societies

- There are cremation societies that can assist survivors in arranging a memorial service, filing obituaries, and applying for death benefits
- The society will hold remains, obtain a death certificate, and conduct the cremation
- Some societies have multi-state programs