
FREE PRINTABLE + FILLABLE WORKBOOK

Funeral Planning & Price Comparison

A calm, practical place to organize immediate steps, compare three providers, record decisions, and keep important details together.

INSIDE

- ☐ Immediate steps for the first 24 hours
- ☐ Questions to ask funeral homes
- ☐ Three-provider price comparison
- ☐ Budget and service planning pages
- ☐ Consumer rights and after-funeral tasks

Funeral Homes Near Me

Independent planning information for families

NO EMAIL REQUIRED | UPDATED JULY 2026

The first 24 hours

Start with the situation that applies to you.

If there is immediate danger

Call 911. If someone may be in crisis or at risk of self-harm, call or text 988 in the United States.

AT HOME UNDER HOSPICE CARE

- ☐ Call the hospice nurse or the hospice's 24-hour number.
- ☐ Do not call 911 unless hospice instructs you to or there is another emergency.
- ☐ Contact the chosen funeral home after the death has been pronounced.

UNEXPECTED DEATH AT HOME

- ☐ Call 911 and follow the dispatcher's instructions.
- ☐ Do not move the person or disturb the area unless instructed.
- ☐ Authorities will explain when a funeral home may be contacted.

HOSPITAL OR CARE FACILITY

- ☐ Ask staff when and how the death certificate process begins.
- ☐ Tell staff which funeral home or cremation provider you select.
- ☐ Ask how long you have to make the selection; you do not need to decide every service immediately.

Names, phone numbers, and immediate notes

STEP 2

Gather essential information

Collect what is available. Missing details can be added later.

Full legal name

Other or maiden name

Date and place of birth

Date and place of death

Social Security number

Most recent address

Occupation and employer

Parents' full names

Spouse or partner

Military branch and service dates

DD-214 location

Life insurance company/policy

Prepaid plan or written wishes

Cemetery plot or deed information

DOCUMENTS TO LOOK FOR

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Photo identification | ☐ Birth certificate |
| ☐ Marriage certificate | ☐ Will or trust |
| ☐ Military discharge papers | ☐ Insurance policies |
| ☐ Cemetery deed | ☐ Pre-need funeral contract |

Record the key decisions

Use this page to separate known wishes from choices still to be made.

FINAL DISPOSITION

- ☐ Traditional burial
- ☐ Direct or immediate burial
- ☐ Cremation with a service
- ☐ Direct cremation
- ☐ Donation to science
- ☐ Undecided / need guidance

Funeral, memorial, graveside, or celebration of life

Religious, cultural, or family traditions

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Venue

Preferred date/time

Officiant

Pallbearers

Speakers/readers

Reception location

Open questions or family decisions still needed

Call three funeral homes

You have the right to receive accurate price information by phone when you ask.

Suggested opening

"I am comparing arrangements for my family. Please tell me the price and what is included for the services I ask about. Can you also send me your General Price List?"

QUESTIONS TO ASK EACH PROVIDER

- ☐ What is your nondeclinable basic services fee?
- ☐ What is included in your direct cremation or immediate burial price?
- ☐ Are transportation, permits, death certificates, or crematory fees additional?
- ☐ What are your least expensive casket, urn, and alternative container options?
- ☐ Is embalming required for the arrangement I am considering? If so, why?
- ☐ May I purchase a casket or urn from another seller without an extra handling fee?
- ☐ Which charges are required by law or a cemetery, and which are optional?
- ☐ Can you provide an itemized written estimate before I agree?

Notes from calls

Follow-up questions

STEP 5

Compare three providers

Record itemized prices so similarly named packages can be compared fairly.

FUNERAL HOME			
Phone / contact			
Basic services fee			
Transfer of remains			
Embalming			
Other preparation			
Viewing / visitation			
Ceremony / memorial			
Hearse / vehicles			
Casket / container			
Cremation fee			
Urn			
Third-party charges			
Cemetery / burial costs			
ESTIMATED TOTAL			

Ask whether each price is firm, estimated, or subject to additional third-party charges.

STEP 6

Build the complete budget

Funeral-home estimates may not include cemetery and other third-party expenses.

EXPENSE	ESTIMATE
Funeral home goods and services	
Cemetery plot or crypt	
Opening and closing the grave	
Vault or grave liner	
Marker or monument	
Death certificates and permits	
Flowers	
Obituary notices	
Clergy, musicians, or honoraria	
Reception	
Travel or transportation	
Other	
ESTIMATED TOTAL	

Insurance, veterans benefits, or other funds

Family budget limit and decision notes

Know your consumer rights

These protections come from the Federal Trade Commission's Funeral Rule.

1

Buy only what you want

You may select individual goods and services instead of accepting a package.

2

Receive prices by phone

Funeral directors must provide price information by phone when you ask.

3

Keep a General Price List

When discussing arrangements in person, you must receive an itemized GPL that is yours to keep.

4

See product price lists first

You may review casket and outer burial container prices before seeing the products.

5

Use an alternative cremation container

No state or local law requires a casket for cremation.

6

Buy a casket or urn elsewhere

The funeral home may not refuse it or charge a handling fee.

7

Arrange without routine embalming

No state requires embalming for every death; ask about refrigeration and other options.

8

Receive an itemized statement

Before paying, get a written list of every selected item and its cost.

Official source

Read the complete Funeral Rule at consumer.ftc.gov/articles/ftc-funeral-rule

STEP 8

Plan the service

Use only the sections that fit your family's traditions and wishes.

Obituary writer and deadline

Readings, poems, or prayers

Music

Flowers or charitable donations

Photos, slideshow, or memory table

Clothing and personal items

Printed program

Livestream or recording

Reception food and beverages

Accessibility or transportation needs

DAY-OF CONTACTS

Funeral director

Family coordinator

Cemetery / crematory

Officiant

Venue

Reception contact

After the funeral

Work through administrative tasks gradually and keep a record of each contact.

- ☐ Order certified death certificates based on each institution's requirements.
- ☐ Confirm that Social Security has been notified and ask about survivor benefits.
- ☐ File life insurance claims.
- ☐ Contact banks, credit unions, investment firms, and pension providers.
- ☐ Contact the Department of Veterans Affairs if the person served in the military.
- ☐ Notify credit bureaus and review accounts for identity theft.
- ☐ Update property titles, leases, utilities, and vehicle records as appropriate.
- ☐ Cancel or transfer subscriptions, memberships, online accounts, and recurring payments.
- ☐ Keep receipts and copies of every submitted document.

KEEP YOUR NEXT STEPS TOGETHER

Next three actions

Names, confirmation numbers, and notes

Continue online

Find local funeral homes and revisit the planning guides at funeralhomesnear.me/resources

This workbook provides general consumer information, not legal, financial, or medical advice. Pricing examples on the website use the NFDA 2023 General Price List Study, the latest NFDA national pricing study available as of July 16, 2026. Actual prices vary by provider and location.