



US? WHY CHOOSE

WELCOME TO A PLACE TO CELEBRATE LIFE AND HONOR EVERY MEMORY



Cremation Society of South Carolina - Westville Funerals

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ADVERT



Experience the Difference

We invite you to discover what has made Cremation Society of South Carolina -Westville Funerals the ultimate provider of creating healing experiences in the community. Discover the heritage, vision, and the people behind Cremation Society of South Carolina -Westville Funerals' reputation of quality, sincerity, and trust.

We have years of experience caring for families from all walks of life. Each family comes to us because they know we are leaders in our profession, dedicated to excellence in service.

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Our History

Our two locations are deeply rooted in the Greenville community. Our main funeral home facility was built around 1920 in Greenville's recently revitalized West End, our location began as a high school in the Tanglewood Building. In 1925 the two-story brick building was added and the name was changed to Westville. It became a full high school during the 1931-1932 school term, when there was a graduating class of eight! Westville continued as an elementary school until the mid 1960's. In fact, many of our expansive meeting rooms were classrooms and offices. Our chapel was the school gymnasium and sometimes dining hall. The building was used as an antiques shop for a time, and later remodeled as a funeral home by the Jones family in the 80's, and the Cremation Society of S.C. expanded into the funeral home in 2014.

We are honored to serve the Upstate in such a facility where many young minds of past generations were trained.

The Crematorium, located off Dupont Drive near the ever expanding downtown, was built in 1974, and updated in 1999 as South Carolina's first licensed Crematory Funeral Home and Cremation Society. We've always had our own crematory, and we continue to help families with proven support, consistent service, and dignified options.

Honoring Life

Honoring the achievements of your loved ones and celebrating the life you shared together are the cornerstones of healing after loss.

It's All About the Relationship

Honoring the life of your loved one means you value the relationship you shared. We look forward to helping you decide how to celebrate that bond, and honor the unique individual you've lost. We can make suggestions to enhance your tribute ideas. Together, we will create a fitting and memorable event. Contact us today to discuss the possibilities at: director@cremationsocietyofsc.com

Tribute Videos

Your family photographs are skillfully blended with wonderful graphic images and music, to create an elegantly emotive cinematic video. A Tribute Video can be an integral part of any funeral or memorial service. After the ceremony, the video is sure to become a treasured family keepsake. And, we can make copies as gifts for family and friends.

Personalized Printing

Our Life Tributes memorial bookmarks, service programs, prayer cards, and folders can all include a favorite photo, poem or prose tribute to your loved one. With the variety available to us through Life Tributes, we can add a uniquely caring element to your service, so your guests can leave with a treasured keepsake. It's tradition...with a twist.

Memorial Websites

The traditional newspaper obituary is quickly being replaced by the memorial website. We've taken the concept further than anyone else. Our memorial sites are not just a repository of family photos and videos; they're Web 2.0 tools for connecting with family and friends, all in honor of your loved one. We invite you to take a tour, so you can see its power to celebrate connections, honor a life, and record the love you shared.

Learn More About Honoring Your Loved One

You knew your loved one better than anyone else. We've got years of experience. Together, we'll design the perfect memorial or funeral service for your loved one. If you're ready to discuss the options, or simply have questions about our services, please call us at (864) 269-5073, or send us an email inquiry: director@cremationsocietyofsc.com



Designing Your Funeral

There are two facets of the design process. First, we ask you to consider how you wish to honor and celebrate the life. When those important decisions are made, we'll turn to the issue of how you wish to care for the physical remains.

How to Honor a Life

It's about bringing those you love together at a time of loss. It's a natural thing to do and has become a socially-expected practice. More importantly, a funeral or memorial service, whether traditional or contemporary, is the first step in healing.

You can have your service anywhere, and any way, you want. Your choices include the place of celebration, day of the week, time of day, the musical selection, and what prayers will be said or songs you'd like sung. For instance, we can arrange to have doves, butterflies, or balloons released at the close of the service. Keepsake gifts of wildflower seeds or a tree seedling can be given. We're here to help you create the most memorable and meaningful service to honor your loved one.

Burial or Cremation?

Your next consideration focuses on choosing between burial and cremation. Usually, people are clear on this point. In fact, your loved one may have told you, or someone else, exactly how they wish to be cared for. However, it can be a hard decision for some families, especially when the wishes of the deceased were never clearly stated. If that's the case, please know we're able to help you come to the perfect decision for your loved one, and for you.

Once you decide, the finer details come into focus. If you've chosen burial, then selection of the casket, vault, and desired cemetery follows. We will handle contacting your chosen cemetery. If you haven't chosen one yet, don't worry - we have many local relationships for civilian and military options, as well as green or natural burials.

If cremation is your choice, then you'll need to make the next decision: whether the cremated remains will be placed in a mausoleum niche, or buried on the cemetery grounds.

What's Next?

Now that we've given you the basics, it's time to reflect more on exactly what is appropriate for you and your family. If possible, gather everyone together to speak of their feelings and desires.

Still looking for inspiration? Speaking with a professional funeral planner will help to clarify your thinking. Reach us at (864) 269-5073.



Funeral and Memorial Services

All too often, families discount the value of having a ceremony after the death of a loved one, and we certainly don't want you to make that mistake. Coming together after a loss is a very essential part of the grieving process.

Create Healing Experiences

In the depth of early grief, you might think that it would be 'easier' to just take care of things as simply – and as quickly – as possible. But easier – especially in this circumstance – simply isn't better. You must set the stage for the future by giving your family and friends the opportunity to start the healing process.

Funeral Services

Gathering with friends and family gives everyone the opportunity to share memories, express emotions, and find comforting support. Whether you choose burial or cremation, whether you select a formal funeral or a more relaxed memorial service, the need for acknowledgment of the loss with family and friends is ever present. We can help you create a unique meaningful ceremony to express the genuine individuality of your loved one.

We offer families beautiful facilities in which to come together to honor their loved one. But you may certainly choose to celebrate their life in a more unique or intimate setting. No matter where you decide to gather together, such a service will make a difference in the lives of all who attend.

Burial Services

If burial has been selected, usually any ceremonies we design revolve around the casket being present. You can choose to follow tradition, with a viewing, followed by a funeral service in a church or our memorial chapel. You could even decide to have a service in your family home.

Let's just say this: there is no 'hard and fast' formula for honoring your loved one when burial has been selected. We're here to listen to your concerns, share our experience, and help you to arrive at the perfect way to gather together before your loved one's interment in the cemetery of your choice.

Cremation Services

Cremation only refers to the manner in which you or your loved one has chosen to deal with the physical remains. We want you to know that this decision doesn't limit the ways you can honor your loved one's life. We heartily suggest that you have a funeral or memorial service, because your need for such a healing experience is not lessened by the decision to be cremated. You can even hold a "traditional" funeral with a viewing and cremation to follow. Again, the options are limited only by your imagination. We hope that you will contact us to discuss the wide variety of celebratory options open to you.

You Can Never Go Back and Do it Over

Some say it's harsh to remind you of this, but we know we must. We want you to honor your loved one in a way that allows you to look back, years from now, and be thankful that you did the best you could to honor their life. Creating a ceremony that calls together the hearts and minds of all who loved them is a gift to everyone involved. A gift of memories, a gift of healing... a truly priceless gift of peace-of-mind.

Contact us today to speak with one of our directors.

Catering Services

Hosting a social gathering after a funeral or memorial service can be an added source of comfort to family and friends. Let us help you by arranging for catering at our facility, your home, or another place that has special memories. Whether you would like light refreshments or a full meal, our staff can help personalize your event with special touches. Please contact us today to learn more.



Online Arranger

Please provide text.

Please provide text.



Permanent Memorialization

This means creating a dedicated place for family and friends to connect and remember your loved one.

A Consistent Place of Healing

In our modern society, people aren't given enough time to grieve their losses. The pressures of work, even the simple emotional need to 'be busy,' often bring the bereaved back into the 'real' world far too soon.

Also, many families are choosing to scatter the cremated remains of their loved one in a favorite place; the ocean, or even in the skies above. While that may seem fitting at the time, it means that you do not have a consistent place to connect with the memories of the person you loved so dearly.

Having such permanent place - in a cemetery, mausoleum, or cremation garden - that can be visited regularly by family and friends is an essential part of the time following a death. It becomes a focal point of memorialization, and gives everyone a special place to go to remember your loved one, or to commemorate important occasions. It can help to make a birthday or anniversary less painful.

A permanent place to reflect on your loved one becomes a way of connecting to a family's past. Visiting the resting place of grandparents or great-grandparents may provide children with an anchor to their personal history. It is a connection to the past, to love shared. It truly honors the relationship you still have – and will always have – with that person. We offer a variety of packages that include traditional funerals, cremation, with memorialization and disposition. Contact director@cremationsocietyofsc.com



This section has been updated with our new content.

Honoring The Lives of Those Who Serve

We are proud to be able to offer our services for your loved ones who have served our country. A Veterans Service is specifically designed to honor and pay respect to those who have put their country first; it is our honor to help you acknowledge the debt and gratitude we feel for our servicemen and women.

Who is eligible?

A Veteran is anyone who has been on active duty, is a retired service member, a member of the National Guard or the reserve, and who has not been dishonorably discharged.

Certain family members of the Veteran, such as his or her spouse and dependent children, are also entitled to free grave space, a cemetery marker, or burial vault space at any National Cemetery, alongside the Veteran. National Cemeteries are owned by the American people and are for the exclusive use of Veterans.

Military honors

The Department of Defense is responsible for providing Military Funeral Honors. Every eligible Veteran is entitled to Military Honors, by law. This includes the folding and presenting of the United States burial flag and the playing of Taps. The law defines the service as “consisting of two or more uniformed military persons, with at least one being a member of the Veteran’s parent service of the armed forces.”

Burial benefits

Benefits that are available include a gravesite at any one of the 135 National Cemeteries, with available space, the opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care of the burial site, a government headstone or marker, burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, all of which are provided at no cost to the family.

Whether you opt for a burial or cremation, your loved one will still receive the same Military Honors.

Burial allowances

A Veterans Administration Burial Allowance is a flat-rate monetary benefit for eligible Veterans. The amount of allowance is dependent upon such factors as:

- Whether the Veteran's death was service-related
- Non-service-related death
- When the death occurred

To find out if you are eligible for Burial Benefit, you will need to complete VA Form 21P-530 Application for Burial Benefit.

The VA can provide headstones, markers, and medallions to any unmarked grave of an eligible Veteran in any cemetery, anywhere in the world, regardless of the date of the death.

If a National Cemetery, state Veterans' Cemetery, or Military Post/Base Cemetery is chosen, then a headstone or marker will be organized by the cemetery officials, based on inscription information provided by the Veteran's next of kin or authorized representative.

Burial flag

A United States flag is provided by the VA, at no cost, to be draped on the casket or urn of the deceased Veteran. It is used as a mark of respect to honor the service that the Veteran gave to the country.

After the service, the burial flag is generally presented to the next of kin. An application using from VA Form 27-2008 is required.

Presidential memorial certificate

Signed by the current President, the Presidential Memorial Certificate is an engraved paper certificate to honor the memory of deceased Veterans who are eligible for burial in a National Cemetery.

Applications can be made using VA Form 40-0247.

Here at Cremation Society of South Carolina, we would be honored to help you commemorate your Veteran by providing him or her with a Veterans Service.

We will be on hand to guide you through any applications that need to be made to ensure they receive the honor they deserve.





Frequently Asked Questions

We have heard thousands of questions, and chosen to provide you with the answers to some of the more common questions relating to a funeral, a funeral service and funeral homes.

- What is a Funeral?

The funeral is a ceremony of proven worth and value for those who mourn. It provides an opportunity for the survivors and others who share in the loss to express their love, respect and grief. It permits facing openly and realistically the crisis that death may present. Through the funeral, the bereaved take that first step towards emotional adjustment to their loss.

- What Type of Service Should I Have?

Only you can answer that question. The type of service conducted for the deceased, if not noted in a pre-plan, is decided by the family. The service is usually held at a place of worship or at the funeral home. The service may vary in ritual according to religious denomination or the wishes of the family. The presence of friends at this time is an acknowledgment of friendship and support. A private service is by invitation only, where selected relatives and a few close friends attend the funeral service. A memorial service is usually a service without the body present and can vary in ceremony and procedures according to the family's community and religious affiliations.

- Can I Personalize my Funeral Service?

Absolutely, in fact, we recommend it. After all, the funeral is a celebration of life. Funeral directors are happy to discuss all options and ensure your funeral is tailored to your wishes. It may be personalized in many unique ways. Contact us at (864) 269-5073 to explore the possibilities.

- Why Should we Have a Public Viewing?

There are many reasons to view the deceased. It is part of many cultural and ethnic traditions, and many grief specialists believe that viewing aids the grief process by helping the bereaved recognize the reality of death. Viewing is even encouraged for children, as long as it is their desire to do so, and the process is explained well.

- Why do we Need an Obituary Notice?

It is helpful to friends and to the community to have an obituary notice published announcing the death and type of service to be held. A notice can be placed in a local newspaper, on the Internet or both. See our website www.cremationsocietyofsc.com for details.

- What does a Funeral Director do?

Funeral directors are both caregivers and administrators. In their administrative duties, they make the arrangements for transportation of the body, complete all necessary paperwork, and implement the choices made by the family regarding the funeral and final disposition of the body. As caregivers, funeral directors are listeners, advisors and supporters. They have experience assisting the bereaved in coping with death. Funeral directors are trained to answer questions about grief, recognize when a person is having difficulty coping, and recommend sources of professional help. Funeral directors also link survivors with support groups at the funeral home or in the community.

- What Should I do if the Death Occurs in the Middle of the Night or on the Weekend?

We are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. All you need to do is place a call to us at (864) 269-5073. If you request immediate assistance, one of our professionals will be there within the hour.

- What Should I do if a Death Occurs While Away From Home?

Your funeral director can assist you if a death occurs anywhere on the globe. Contact your hometown funeral director of choice immediately. They will assume responsibility and coordinate the arrangements for the return of the deceased person to their community. They may engage the services of a funeral director in the place of death who will act as their agent.



- What is the Purpose of Embalming?

Embalming sanitizes and preserves the body, slows down the decomposition process, and enhances the appearance of a body disfigured by traumatic death or illness. It makes it possible to lengthen the time between death and the final disposition, thus allowing family members time to arrange and participate in the type of service most comforting to them. Embalming the body enables mourners to view the deceased if they wish. The emotional benefits of viewing the deceased are enormous, particularly to those having difficulty dealing with the death.

- Is Embalming Mandatory by Law?

No. However, certain factors of time, health, and possible legal requirements might make embalming either appropriate or necessary. Please note that embalming may be required if the deceased is being transported by air to another country where local laws need be observed. However, it is the policy of our firm to require embalming for any public viewing. Respect, dignity, and safety are the cornerstones of our facility.

- Is Cremation a Substitute for a Funeral?

No, cremation is an alternative to earth burial or entombment for the body's final disposition and often follows a traditional funeral service. We can assist you with the necessary information for a funeral with a cremation following or a memorial service, however at some point, final disposition and memorialization are key elements of honoring the life that was lived.

- Can I have a Visitation Period and a Funeral Service if Cremation is Chosen?

Yes, cremation does not preclude having a visitation period and a funeral service. Cremation is simply one option for final disposition.

- Is Cremation as a Means of Final Disposition Increasing?

Yes, but not dramatically. We offer a variety of memorialization choices including scattering options, memorial art for the home, and traditional cremation niches. Contact us for more information, email: director@cremationsocietyofsc.com.

- How Much Does a Funeral Cost?

Funerals can cost as little as \$1000 for a direct disposition. Direct disposition includes registering the death, a basic casket or container, and transporting the deceased to a cemetery or crematorium. For an adult, full-service funeral, consumers choose to spend an average of \$7181. This includes all professional services, including transfer-of remains, embalming and other preparation, use of viewing facilities, the facilities for the ceremony, hearse, limousine, and the purchase of a casket.

- Has This Cost Increased Significantly?

Funeral costs have increased no faster than the consumer price index for other consumer items.

- Why are Funerals so Expensive?

In some respects, funerals are a lot like weddings or birthday celebrations. The type and cost will vary according to the tastes and budget of the consumer. Not only that, a funeral home is a 24-hour, labor-intensive business, with extensive facilities (viewing rooms, chapels, limousines, hearses, etc.); these expenses must be factored into the cost of a funeral. Moreover, the cost of a funeral includes not only merchandise, like caskets, but the services of a funeral director in making arrangements, filing appropriate forms, dealing with doctors, ministers, florists, newspapers and others, and seeing to all the necessary details. Contrary to popular belief, funeral homes are largely family-owned with a modest profit margin.

- What Recourse does a Consumer Have for Poor Service or Overcharging?

While most funeral homes provide outstanding services, sometimes things can go wrong. Funeral service is regulated by the Federal Trade Commission and state licensing boards. In most cases, the consumer should discuss problems with the funeral director first. If the dispute cannot be solved by talking with the funeral director, the consumer may wish to contact the manager of the facility.



Cemetery Common Questions

The answers below are here because these are the most commonly-asked questions. If yours isn't listed, we invite you to call us. We're here to provide the information you need, when you need it.

- Are Cemeteries Running Out of Space?

Just like other open spaces, cemeteries are impacted by increased population density in both urban and rural areas. Cemetery spaces are a finite resource, and as such, are at a premium in some regions.

- What is Perpetual Care?

"Perpetual Care" usually refers to the correct terms Permanent Care or Endowment Care. These care funds are collected with each Interment Space sale to maintain the grounds, roads, and buildings of the cemetery.

- Can the Vault be Personalized?

Yes, we can show you the wide range of personalization choices, including customized nameplates and military insignias.

- Are There Vaults for Cremated Remains?

Yes, we offer a variety of urn vaults, designed for in-ground burial of cremated remains.

- Can the Family Witness the Cremation?

Yes, for a nominal fee. Our state-of-the-art cremation facility is set up to allow family members to be present when the body is placed into the cremation chamber. In fact, some religious groups include this as part of their funeral custom.

- Does a Body Have to be Embalmed Before it is Buried?

No, embalming is not required for burial. It is always your choice. Your decision may depend on such factors as:

- Whether the family selected a service with a public viewing of the body with an open casket
- To enhance the deceased's appearance for a private family viewing
- If the body is going to be transported by air or rail
- The length of time prior to the burial

- Must I Purchase a Burial Vault?

In most areas of the country, state or local laws do not require that you purchase an outer burial container to surround the casket in the grave. However, most cemeteries require that you have such a container to protect the casket from the weight of the earth and to keep the cemetery looking like a park. Either a grave liner or a burial vault will satisfy these requirements.

- What are the Advantages of a Mausoleum Burial?

Mausoleum crypts are both clean and dry. They offer a viable alternative for those who simply have an aversion of being interred in the ground. Furthermore, with the growing shortage of available land for cemetery use, mausoleums will allow for a maximum number of entombments in a minimum amount of space.

- What is a Columbarium?

A columbarium, often located within a mausoleum, chapel or in a garden setting, is constructed with numerous small compartments (niches) designed to hold urns containing cremated remains. There are a variety of niche options available that include memorialization.



Funeral Etiquette

The accepted customs of dress and behavior in a funeral have changed over time, but courtesy never goes out of style. Here's what we'd like you to know about funeral etiquette.

Making the Most of a Difficult Time

It's important to know what religious, ethnic or personal considerations you need to take into account. And it's also important to be respectful of the emotions of close family members.

Here are a few things expected of you:

- **Offer an expression of sympathy.**

Sometimes we are at a loss for words when encountering something as final as death. Simply saying "I'm sorry for your loss" is usually enough. Be respectful and listen attentively when spoken to, and offer your own words of condolence.

- **Find out the dress code.**

These days almost anything goes, but only when you know it's the right thing. In fact, sometimes the deceased has specified the dress code; 'no black' is a common request. If you can't learn the wishes of the family, then dress conservatively, and avoid bright colors.

- **Give a gift.**

It doesn't matter if it is flowers, a donation to a charity or a commitment of service to the family at a later date; as always, "it's the thought that counts." Always make sure to provide the family with a signed card, so they know what gift was given, and by whom.

- Sign the register book.

Include not only your name, but your relationship to the deceased: co-worker, gym buddy, or casual acquaintance from the golf club. This helps the family place who you are in the future.

- Keep in touch.

It's sometimes awkward for you to do so, but for most people the grieving doesn't end with a funeral.

But, What Shouldn't You Do?

- Don't feel that you have to stay.

If you make a visit during calling hours there's no reason your stay has to be a lengthy one.

- Don't be afraid to laugh.

Remembering their loved one fondly can mean sharing a funny story or two. Just be mindful of the time and place; if others are sharing, then you may do so too. There is simply no good reason you shouldn't talk about the deceased in a happy, positive tone.

- Don't feel you have to view the deceased if there is an open casket.

Act according to what is comfortable to you.

- Don't allow your children to be a disturbance.

If you feel they might be, then leave them with a sitter. But, if the deceased meant something to them, it's a good idea to invite them to share in the experience.

- Don't leave your cell phone on.

Switch it off before entering the funeral home, or better yet, leave it in the car. All too often, we see people checking their cell phones for messages during the services.

- Don't neglect to step into the receiving line.

Simply say how sorry you are for their loss, offer up your own name and how you knew the deceased.

- Don't be too hard on yourself if you make a mistake.

Everyone does, and you can be sure that an apology may be all that's needed to mend and soothe.

When it's all over, always remember to continue to offer support and love to the bereaved. The next few months are a time when grieving friends and relatives could need you most. Let them know that your support does not end with the funeral.

We are Here to Help

Perhaps you've got special concerns about an upcoming funeral or memorial service? We're here to provide the answers you're looking for. Call us at (864) 269-5073.



Why Should I Plan Ahead?

Pre-planning is a matter of taking the time to think about – and record – your end-of-life desires. It's a thoughtful gesture to those you love, and a way to let go of anxieties about the future. Once done, you can relax, knowing your plans are in the hands of reliable friends or family.

It's All About Taking Control

Given time to consider it, you'll quickly realize that pre-planning is all about ensuring that your wishes are known, so they can be acted upon when the time comes. Making the commitment to planning ahead:

- Is easy. Absolutely everyone can make a pre-plan, and there is no waiting for return documents. The plan is completed, and put on file in our office.
- Lets your family clearly know your wishes.
- Relieves your family members of making very personal decisions on your behalf at the time of need.
- Can protect your family from the ravages of inflation. Your expenses can be covered when you need them to be, through a pre-payment plan, which freezes the costs at today's prices.

Does Pre-planning Require Pre-payment?

The simple answer is just two letters: No. You can set up a plan to paper by simply recording your wishes, and leave it for your family to pay for your desired services at the time of your passing, often referred to as an unfunded pre-arrangement.

Or, you can protect yourself and your family from inflation, by pre-funding your plan. This ensures your expenses will be covered when you need them to be, and all of the decisions are recorded ahead of time.

When you choose to pre-fund your final arrangements, your money is put in a state-approved trust account or top-rated insurance company until required. After your pre-plan is paid for in full, our price is guaranteed. You will never have to pay more for the items you have already paid for.

Why Pre-Plan with Cremation Society of South Carolina -Westville Funerals?

When you pre-plan with Cremation Society of South Carolina -Westville Funerals, your plan will go where you go. No matter where you reside at the time of your passing, no matter what funeral home you choose to work with, your plan will be transferable to any funeral home in the United States. We will serve your family.

By pre-planning with us, you're assured that your final wishes are known. This relieves your family of the burden of making difficult decisions, under emotional duress. Through pre-funding your plan, expenses will be covered when you need them to be. That's guaranteed.

Our plans offer a variety of payment options to fit most everyone. Choose the payment option that's right for you.

Ready to get started?

Request a personal appointment with a Cremation Society of South Carolina -Westville Funerals pre-planning advisor or email us at: director@cremationsocietyofsc.com

Contact Us for an Appointment

Record your personal information to be kept on file at Cremation Society of South Carolina -Westville Funerals. For assistance in completing the online planning process, please contact us by calling (864) 269-5073.

What to do first - a checklist

Please use this section to help navigate through the many things ahead to consider.

Notify These People as Soon as Possible:

- ☐ The funeral home to arrange for the transfer of the deceased (usually this can be done within 1-2 hours although it may take longer to obtain a release from the hospital) and set an appointment with you to make further arrangements.
- ☐ Relatives, executor/executrix and friends.
- ☐ Employers (the employer of the deceased and relatives who will need time off).
- ☐ Insurance agents (life, health and accident).
- ☐ Religious, fraternal, civic and veterans organizations and unions, if applicable.
- ☐ Lawyer and accountant.

Secure the Vital Statistics of Deceased

- ☐ Full legal name - other names must be identified by "also known as" (AKA).
- ☐ Home address and telephone number.
- ☐ Name of business or employer's name, address and telephone number.
- ☐ Industry and occupation.
- ☐ Military service serial number.
- ☐ Date and place of birth.
- ☐ Citizenship.
- ☐ Father's name and birthplace.
- ☐ Mother's name, maiden name and birthplace.
- ☐ Locate the Will.

Pay For:

- ☐ Ambulance services, if any.
- ☐ Funeral arrangements, including clergy, florist and transportation.
- ☐ Cemetery and memorialization services.
- ☐ Current and urgent bills (i.e. mortgage, rent, taxes, telephone, etc.).

Meet with the Funeral Home Director Within a Few Hours to Decide:

- ☐ Whether your loved one is to be buried, cremated or entombed.
- ☐ The Funeral Director will ask if you have made any arrangements with a cemetery or crematorium. If you have not done this, you will need to visit the cemetery.
- ☐ Service details - would you like a visitation period, formal service, a reception?
- ☐ Whether a member of the clergy will be engaged for the service.
- ☐ Casket selection.
- ☐ Clothing that the deceased will be buried or cremated in.
- ☐ Pallbearers, music, pictures, flowers, scripture or other readings.
- ☐ If you would like a charity to receive donations in lieu of flowers.

If Cremation:

- ☐ Would you like to use our chapel for a short service prior to the cremation?
- ☐ What type of urn would you prefer (metal, wood, marble, ceramic, etc.)?
- ☐ What type of final resting place would you prefer for your loved one (choice of burial, above ground niches or scattering of cremated remains)?
- ☐ Would you like other members of the family to be with your loved one in the future? This determines the size of the resting place.

Decisions to be Made Regarding Burial of an Urn:

- ☐ What type of memorial do you prefer (bronze or granite marker set flush with the ground or an upright memorial)?
- ☐ Would you like to protect your loved one's urn with a vault?

Decisions to be Made Regarding Above Ground Niches:

- ☐ Would you like the niche to be inside a building or outside?
- ☐ What type of material would you like the niche to be constructed from?
Granite or bronze are choices for outdoor niches and marble or glass are choices for indoor.

Decisions to be Made Regarding Scattering:

- ☐ Would you like to be present for the scattering?
- ☐ Would you like a memorial to be placed in the area?

If Casket Burial:

- ☐ Would you like other members of the family to be with your loved one in the future? This determines the size of the plot.
- ☐ What type of memorial do you prefer (a marker set flush with the ground or an upright memorial)?
- ☐ Would you like to protect your loved one's casket with a vault?
- ☐ What type of presentation would you prefer for the burial service e.g. a tent canopy, chairs, mats leading to the grave etc.?

If Casket Entombment:

- ☐ Would you like other members of the family to be with your loved one in the future? This determines the size of the crypt.
- ☐ What type of memorial package would you prefer (choice of flower vase and memorial light)?



Experiencing Grief

When someone close to us passes, the confusion and mixed emotions we feel can often become overwhelming. However, it is important to recognize that there is no standard way of experiencing loss and no right way to grieve. It is completely normal to feel a mixture of shock, anger, guilt, despair and relief, along with many other different emotions. There are, however, some things that you can do which may help you to cope, along with people who can support you, if you need it, during this period in your life.

Recognizing grief

Losing someone we love is something that we all have to go through at some point in our lives. Each experience is personal and different, and can be influenced by many factors. Your feelings are likely to be affected by the relationship you had with the person, your cultural background, and your religious beliefs.

It is important to remember that grief may be displayed in different ways for each individual.

Grief can manifest itself in a range of emotions:

Shock – you may have thought that you were prepared if the death was expected or because you've experienced a loss previously. But whatever the circumstances it is common to feel an initial sense of shock at the passing of someone close to us.

Anger – it is very common to feel anger whilst you are grieving; this can be because they passed before their time, things that happened between you or did not happen, or anger that they are no longer there.

Guilt – people often feel a sense of guilt that they themselves have not passed, or guilt at certain circumstances involving their loved one.

Despair – a grieving person can feel despair and feel at a loss as to how they will cope and what their future life will hold.

Numbness – it can often feel like you are living in a “fog” after the loss of a loved one. You may feel numb or worry that you have not cried, but feeling numb is often a coping mechanism when experiencing intense emotional situations. Gradually over time the feeling of numbness subsides, allowing us to start functioning and healing.

Physical symptoms of grief

When grieving it is common to experience physical symptoms, such as:

- Loss or increase in appetite
- Difficulty in sleeping
- Lethargy – feeling drained, having no energy
- Headaches

It is important to be kind to yourself and give yourself the time and care that you need to transition through the grieving process.

Coping with grief

As with the many different factors that contribute to how we express our grief there are also various processes that can help us to cope:

Give yourself time – focus on one day at a time, helping you to cope with your emotions and get through simple, everyday tasks.

Recognize your emotions – recognize the reasons

for your emotions and symptoms, even the physical ones. When experiencing them give yourself time to work through them.

Support from family and friends – having a support network of family and friends can be extremely helpful. If you do not have this type of network then support can often be found through counseling services.

Talk about your grief – talking, whether about your feelings or about your loved one, with family, friends or a dedicated grief counselor is an important part of the grief process.

Sometimes our grief can become overwhelming and it is important to recognize when to get additional help. Part of the process is to acknowledge that life will not return to normal - it is about understanding that your life has changed and finding a balance between the two.

Working through your grief is not about forgetting the person but about learning how to live your life with the grief that you feel.

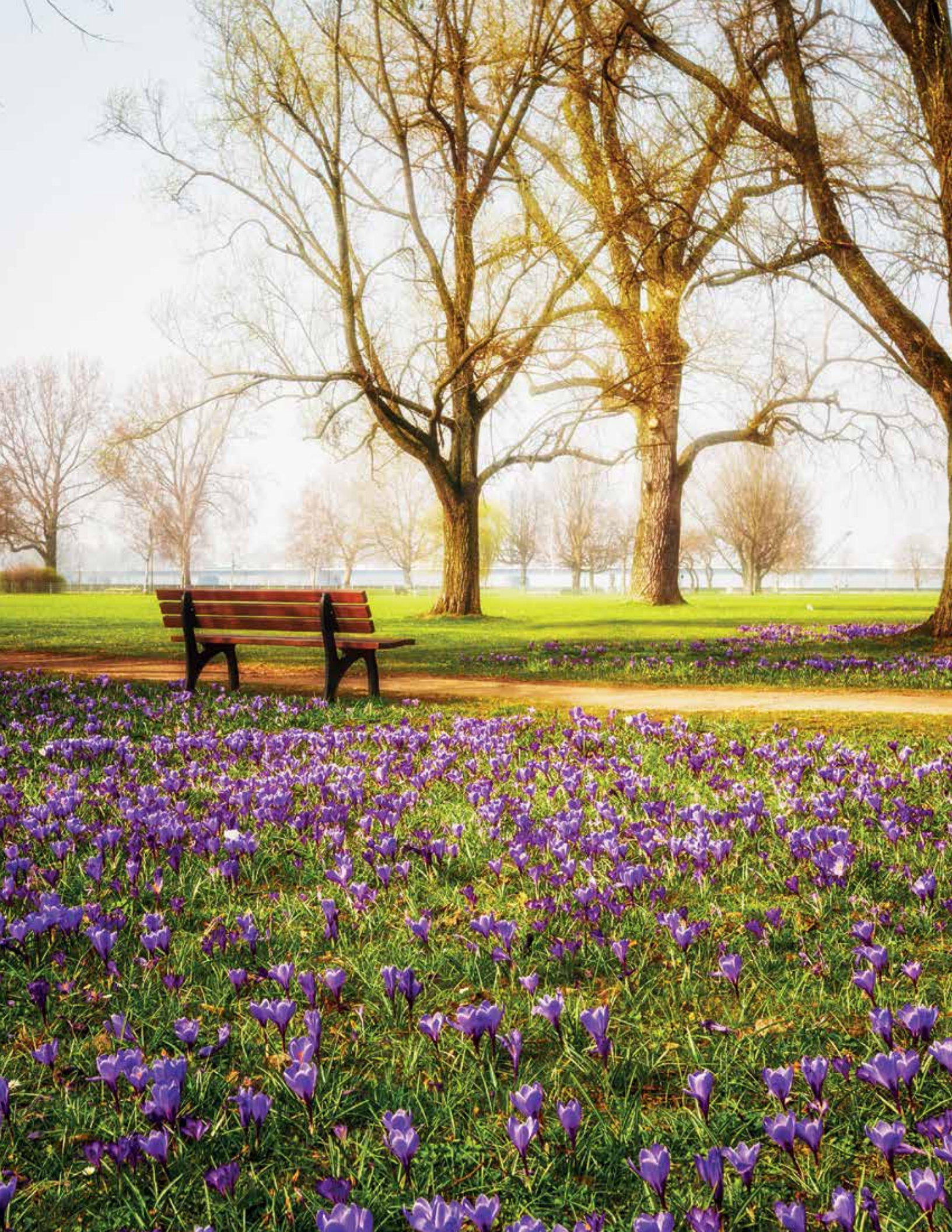
Over time your life will take on a new shape and meaning.

“There are things that we don’t want to happen but have to accept, things we don’t want to know but have to learn, and people we can’t live without but have to let go.” – Author Unknown

Endorsed By



HEART of the CUMBERLAND
Hope and healing for the grieving





Cremation Society Membership

How to Become a Member

Joining is easy. Simply fill out the membership form on the next page and mail it to us. You will receive a membership card in the mail within 4-6 weeks. One call when you need us is all that is necessary. You can rest easy knowing that everything will be taken care of according to your wishes. You can trust the Cremation Society of South Carolina to always be here for you and your family.

Benefits of Joining the Cremation Society

By registering your wishes with the Cremation Society of South Carolina, you will receive a membership card that states your intention for cremation, and lists relevant 24-hour contact details for the Cremation Society.

- 1 Members can personally authorize cremation wishes. We show you how no one can revoke your pre-authorization.
- 2 An identification card to carry with you, which will alert authorities to call us in the event of your death.
- 3 Members are provided transportation for the deceased back to our crematorium from anywhere in the state* when death occurs.

*Additional transport fees may apply outside the Upstate.



Guide Us

It is hoped the stars above us
Can light the way and guide us
Along the path where our journey ends
Saying goodbye to family and friends.

The story does not end today
For we shall have much more to say
When we see each other once again
Where there is no more grief or pain.

We shall be together this day and always
Look to your heart or the stars and gaze
For I shall now be there shining so bright
Lighting the way in the dark of night.

I will be there to guide those next in line
Who will then light the way and really shine
Tomorrow will be here, today it seems so far
Until we are together again,
I'll be the brightest star.

- S.G-C

MY FAMILY TREE

