

TIME TO REFLECT ON WHAT FEELS RIGHT

“Just cremate me” should not be the sum total of your final wishes and plans. Your friends, family members and colleagues will want an opportunity to gather and remember you. They can also benefit from a specific final resting place to visit, remember and mourn. Whether at the time of death or in advance, you have many options when arranging for cremation.

WHAT IS “DIRECT CREMATION” ANYWAY?

Direct cremation is a cremation without formal viewing, visitation, or a ceremony with the body present. Everything else—such as required paperwork, planning of memorial events, finding cemetery placement—falls to someone who is grieving.

GATHERING TOGETHER: A TIME TO REMEMBER AND GRIEVE

While for some “tradition” means full body burial, for others cremation has become their new tradition. In either case, a wake or visitation, a funeral or memorial, and a graveside service are all options. With cremation there are additional possibilities as well.

A family may choose any or all of these options, and, in the case of the memorial and graveside services, they can be held at a time when the family can gather and is ready to grieve together and say goodbye. Cremation expands the timeframe to allow for thoughtful decision-making and the funeral director is a useful resource at any time to plan a service.

THE OPTIONS

CREMATION WITH A CEREMONY/ SERVICE BEFORE OR AFTERWARD



Loved ones have time and space to grieve and remember together.

There are no real downsides to a well-planned service.

CREMATION WITH VIEWING/ IDENTIFICATION



Provides an opportunity to say goodbye and to identify your loved one.

Some facilities may only accommodate a limited number of people.

There may be limited guidance for navigating available cremation and service options

DIY – DIRECT CREMATION WITH NO ADDITIONAL SERVICES



Fully individualized, designed by you and your family and friends.

You must handle potentially complicated arrangements on your own, possibly in the midst of grieving.



DECISION-MAKING RESOURCES

Our decisions about how we treat our dead are extremely personal. We recommend learning about cremation and discussing it with your loved ones, exploring options with your funeral director, and asking for guidance from your religious leader when making a decision.

When it comes to planning your service and learning about your options, your best resource is a funeral director who can guide you.



ASK THE EXPERT: THE ROLE OF THE FUNERAL DIRECTOR

A funeral director is a licensed professional trained in the care of the dead and their survivors. During their careers, they will help hundreds of families plan the best way to remember their loved ones. They will design traditional religious services and creative celebrations of life, and, like the people they serve, no two will be the same.

Funeral directors have resources at their fingertips to help you do anything and everything you want. Remember, they live in your community. They will have special knowledge about settings for a service, options for final placement, and ideas about how to make each special. They will know the best speakers—whether you prefer a religious leader, a community leader, or Certified Celebrants who can provide a service as unique as the life lived.

More than planning the service, a funeral director is knowledgeable about urns designed for scattering, keepsakes to capture a memory, and many other products to meet your needs at any time of the process. They are also knowledgeable about the laws and regulations that may impact certain activities, such as scattering.



AVOID REGRET: DON'T DO NOTHING

Cremation can sometimes present an overwhelming array of options, but it also provides the time to reflect on what feels right.

Cremation provides opportunity for creativity and a memorial as unique as the life lived. The only recommendation we make is “Don’t do nothing.” Urns can be removed from niches or disinterred from plots to make keepsakes. Remains that were scattered remotely can be memorialized at the cemetery or other location for future visits. Understand your options so you won’t make the wrong choice for your loved ones.

