



717-CREMATE

Planning Ahead: A Simple Guide for Lancaster Families

Three steps. No cost. No obligation. No sales call required.

Your Trusted Choice for Affordable Cremation

Planning ahead is a simple process and spares the people you love from guessing at the time of your death. This guide walks you through it in three steps: **decide what matters to you, write it down, and tell someone**. There is no cost, no obligation, and no sales call required.

Why plan ahead?

When someone passes, families are asked to make many decisions quickly, often while grieving. Most people never talked about their wishes, so loved ones are left wondering, "What would they have wanted?"

A plan answers that question for them. It also lets you make choices with a clear head, on your own schedule, and in your own words.

Your two choices at Cremation Services of Lancaster

We offer one thing and do it well: direct cremation, with no viewing, service, or ceremony required. You choose between two packages. Both are described in full at www.717cremate.com.

Direct Cremation (Essential)	Direct Cremation (Plus)
Price \$1,795 Pre-planned and pre-paid \$1,395	Price \$2,095 Pre-planned and pre-paid \$1,695
What is included • Transfer from the place of death to our facility • Basic funeral director and staff services • Refrigeration for one day • Necessary authorizations and the coroner's authorization fee • Crematory fee and the cremation itself • Basic cardboard cremation container • Notification of Social Security and the VA, where applicable • Online and local obituary submission, if desired (family provides the content)	What is included • Everything in Essential, plus: • A scheduled arrangement call with a cremation specialist • \$100 credit toward merchandise of your choice • One certified death certificate • Access to AI obituary writing software • 365 days of online aftercare support • Digital thumbprint of your loved one, when possible

Not included in either package: an urn (without one, cremated remains are returned in a basic temporary container), and ground transportation beyond 60 miles from our facility (\$3 per mile each way).

Planning a memorial? The Family-Led Memorial Package

Many families want a way to remember their loved one without the high cost of a traditional funeral home service. The Family-Led Memorial Package is made for that. You plan and host the gathering, whether it is a celebration of life, an open house, or a private remembrance, at a place you choose, such as your home, a park, a community hall, or your place of worship. We provide the tools and keepsakes.

The package includes:

- **Family-Led Memorial Planning Guide.** A downloadable guide with practical funeral industry knowledge for planning a memorial without a traditional funeral home service.
- **Memorial Tribute Video.** A video of 50 to 100 of your family's photos set to music, ready to share at a service or gathering.
- **Personalized Memorial Guestbook.** A 7" x 10" register book with a blue vinyl cover and gold foil stamping.
- **Customized Memorial Cards.** Cards with your loved one's photo, name, and dates, and a prayer, poem, verse, or message of your choice, for guests to take home.

It can be added to either direct cremation package. For pricing, or to start planning a personal tribute, call 717-CREMATE or visit www.717cremate.com.

Step 1: Decide what matters to you

You do not need to have every answer. Start with the big questions and leave the rest blank.

- **Essential or Plus?** Essential covers everything required to perform a cremation. Plus adds a scheduled arrangement call, a merchandise credit, a certified death certificate, and more.
- **A memorial, now or later?** We do not hold memorial services ourselves, but you can host your own with our Family-Led Memorial Package (see below). Many families gather at home, at a place of worship, or at a favorite spot, whenever it feels right, even months later.
- **Where would you like your remains to rest?** Families may keep cremated remains at home, place them in a cemetery or columbarium, or scatter them where local rules allow. Some choose to divide them among family members. You can choose an urn or keepsake now or later.
- **Is there anything you do *not* want?** Saying what you want to avoid is just as helpful.
- **Who should be involved?** Think about who should be called first, who should make decisions, and who should be told.

Step 2: Write it down, online

This step happens on our website, not on paper. Visit www.717cremate.com and select Plan Ahead. You will be guided through choosing your package and recording your wishes, and your plan is kept on file with us so your family has someone to call.

Have these ready before you start:

- ☐ Your full legal name, date of birth, and place of birth
- ☐ Your parents' names, including your mother's maiden name
- ☐ Your military discharge papers (DD-214), if you served
- ☐ The name and phone number of the first person to call
- ☐ The name of the person who will make decisions for you
- ☐ Names and phone numbers of other people to notify
- ☐ Your package choice, and whether you would like the Family-Led Memorial Package

Prefer to talk it through? Call 717-CREMATE and we will walk you through it, at your pace.

Step 3: Tell someone

A plan only helps if the right people can find it. Tell at least one trusted person, such as a spouse, an adult child, a close friend, or your attorney, that you have made a plan, and how to reach us.

- Tell them your plan is with Cremation Services of Lancaster, and give them our name and phone number, 717-CREMATE.
- Make sure the person who will make decisions for you knows where to find the information.
- Keep any confirmation you receive with your important papers, not only in a safe deposit box or locked safe, because your family may not be able to open it quickly.

Starting the conversation can be the hardest part. Try one of these:

- "Have you ever thought about what you'd want?"
- "I want to make sure we get this right for you. Can we talk about it?"
- "Would it help if we wrote down your wishes together?"

One short conversation is enough to begin.

Paying ahead: what to know

Planning and paying are two different things. You can write down your wishes without paying anything. If you choose to prepay, ask every provider these questions first:

1. **Where is my money held?** Pre-need funds should be held in a trust or an insurance policy, not simply kept by the business.
2. **Is the price guaranteed?** Ask exactly which items are locked in and which could change later.
3. **Can I get a refund?** Ask what happens if you change your mind.
4. **What if I move or the provider changes hands?** Ask whether your plan can be transferred.
5. **What is in writing?** You should receive a written contract that lists what is included and what is not.

At Cremation Services of Lancaster, you can plan and pay ahead online at www.717cremate.com. When you pre-plan and pre-pay in full, you are guaranteed to have the cremation at the original price you paid, regardless of future price increases. Pre-paid pricing is \$1,395 for Direct Cremation (Essential) and \$1,695 for Direct Cremation (Plus), and arrangements must be pre-planned and pre-paid at least 24 hours before a death occurs. Your funds are securely placed in a trust.

Five questions to ask any provider

1. What is the total cost, including every fee, in writing?
2. Where will the cremation take place, and is it your own facility? (Ours is on site.)
3. How will you identify my loved one from the time of transfer until I receive the cremated remains?
4. How long will everything take?
5. What is included, and what is extra?

You have the right to an itemized price list. A good provider will answer every one of these gladly.

Common questions

Do you offer burial or funeral services?

No. We specialize in direct cremation, so we do not hold viewings or services. Many families host their own memorial with our Family-Led Memorial Package. If you would like a

traditional funeral home service, we can refer you to DeBord Snyder Funeral Home & Crematory.

Can I plan and pay online?

Yes. Visit www.717cremate.com, or call us and we will walk you through it.

Can I change my plan later?

Yes. Wishes change, and a good plan can be updated at any time. Call us or visit www.717cremate.com.

What if I move away?

Ask about travel insurance or about transferring the plan before you sign.

Do I have to prepay?

No. Some people simply record their wishes and leave payment for later. Prepaying locks in your price.

We are here when you are ready

If you have questions, or you would like help filling this out, call us. We go at your pace and never pressure anyone.

Cremation Services of Lancaster

717-CREMATE (717-273-6283)

www.717cremate.com

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This guide is for general information and is not legal advice. For questions about wills, estates, or powers of attorney, please speak with an attorney.