



“How Much Does a Funeral Cost?”

We are often asked the question: "How much does a funeral cost?" The answer can vary greatly, depending on the type of service, merchandise selected, and other elements. To help you determine the answer to this question, Mueller-Bies Funeral Home has developed this planner to provide you with information that may be useful in planning funeral services, or in comparing our charges with other funeral establishments.

The total cost of a funeral consists of three components:

Part I: **Services** - The specific services, facilities and transportation provided by the funeral home

Part II: **Merchandise** - Caskets, burial vaults, urns, or other material goods purchased directly from the funeral home

Part III: **Cash Advances** - Items purchased from/paid to third parties, such as cemetery, obituaries, flowers, clergy, etc.

"Services" and "Merchandise" costs may vary significantly between funeral providers; "Cash Advances" will be the same regardless of the funeral provider you choose, as those prices are set by the parties providing them.

Part I: Services "What type of funeral do I want?"

The first step in estimating your funeral cost is determining what type of funeral you wish to have. There are many different service options. They range from immediate disposition options such as direct burial/direct cremation with no additional rites or ceremonies, to complete traditional funerals with viewing of the body and full funeral rituals, and everything in between. Note: Traditional funerals may be followed by burial OR cremation; the "Services" charges usually are not significantly affected by this choice, but the subsequent "Merchandise" and "Cash Advances" charges will generally be higher for casketed burial after the funeral than they will when cremation afterwards is chosen.

Sample "Services" prices for some of the more common basic funeral formats are as follows:

Complete, traditional funeral with viewing & visitation evening prior	\$ 6200.00
Traditional funeral with viewing & visitation one hour prior to service only	5700.00
Funeral with visitation evening prior, with no viewing (closed casket)	5400.00
Funeral with visitation one hour prior, with no viewing (closed casket)	4900.00
Direct cremation with memorial service and visitation evening prior	4600.00
Direct cremation with memorial service and visitation one hour prior	4100.00
Direct burial with graveside service	3750.00
Direct cremation with no attendant rites or ceremonies	3400.00

These sample totals include all applicable transportation, facilities, service, and care of remains charges. Costs may vary from these figures depending on certain circumstances, such as location, sequence of events, or evening/weekend services. While the sample totals are generally representative of these types of service, please remember they are approximations. Please see our GENERAL PRICE LIST (attached at end) for itemization and specific details. Below, you can enter the amount most closely resembling your desired services to help you begin to estimate the total cost of the funeral.

*Estimated Cost of Part 1, **Services**: \$* _____

Part II: Merchandise “Do I need a casket? A burial vault? An urn?”

A) Caskets: Services with the body present for viewing and/or services that involve burial of the body require a casket. A rental casket can be used if cremation follows a visitation or funeral; a steel rental casket is available for \$1115, and a poplar for \$1455. A casket is *not* necessary if direct cremation is desired; the required basic cremation container is included in our direct cremation charge. Every casket we stock is manufactured in North America, and the price of burial caskets ranges from \$1170 to \$3870. Prices are as follows:

Solid Oak w/Veneer - \$3870

Solid Poplar - \$3720

Solid Ash w/Veneer - \$3365

Solid Poplar w/Veneer - \$2850

18 Gauge Steel - \$2820, \$3090, \$3295, \$3720

Solid Oak - \$2410, \$3370

Solid Pine - \$2670, \$2970

20 Gauge Steel - \$1435, \$1585, \$1745, \$2040, \$2240, \$2565, \$2810, \$2915, \$3015, \$3030

Cloth Covered Particle Board - \$1170

Rental Caskets (Cremation only) – 18 Gauge Steel - \$1115 Poplar - \$1455

The casket you select can be a major portion of the overall funeral expense, and so we feel it is important to offer you a wide selection of caskets in an affordable range. We carry nine models priced under \$2800, five of which are less than \$2300; our highest-priced models are under \$3900. At the funeral home, rather than display pictures or endpieces for you to select from, we stock the full caskets at both locations. This gives you the ability to see the actual casket you are purchasing to ensure its quality. Many of our caskets may also be available from our suppliers in multiple colors and styles, further increasing your selection options (although additional time for delivery may be required).

*Estimated Cost of **Casket** (if applicable):* \$ _____

B) Casketed Burial Vaults: Most cemeteries require an outer burial container, or “vault”, for in-ground casketed burial. This is not a law, but a policy adopted by most cemeteries to prevent the long-term collapse of the grave. A vault is not required if you own an above-ground crypt, or if you own a space called a “lawn crypt” with a vault pre-installed by the cemetery. Additionally, some cemeteries offer “green burials” that do not require a vault; certain restrictions may need to be adhered to in these cases, however, such as wood caskets and no embalming. If you are burying at Fort Snelling National Cemetery, the VA will provide a minimum grave liner at no charge to you, or refund \$254 toward the purchase of an upgraded vault. Prices for casketed outer burial containers/vaults range as follows:

Grave Liner (basic concrete maintenance shell) - \$1750

Single Reinforced Vault (concrete construction, plastic liner, sealed) - \$2220

Single Reinforced Vault (heavy concrete construction, plastic liner, sealed) - \$2690

Single Reinforced Vault (heavy concrete construction, ABS liner, sealed) - \$3270

Double Reinforced Vault (extra heavy concrete construction, ABS and stainless steel liners, sealed) - \$4570

Double Reinforced Vault (extra heavy concrete construction, ABS and copper liners, sealed) - \$5285

Double Reinforced Vault (extra heavy concrete construction, ABS and bronze liners, sealed) - \$5670

Our price of each Outer Burial Container/Vault INCLUDES delivery, installation, & lowering device charges imposed by the suppliers of these units, as well as a tent for the committal service.

*Estimated Cost of **Casketed Burial Vault** (if applicable):* \$ _____

C) Urns: If the body is to be cremated, an urn is often selected to house the cremated remains. After cremation, the cremated remains are returned in a simple cardboard box. If the cremation takes place before services, the ashes might be placed in an urn and set at the front of the church or chapel to represent the deceased, and possibly later interred. If cremating after services, an urn may be desired for interment or for display at home. Cemeteries may have minimum urn requirements, or size limitations if placing in a niche. We carry approximately three dozen styles of urns on hand, many in multiple colors or designs. Hundreds more are available from our suppliers, time permitting. Keepsakes and pendants are also available if you wish to retain small portions of the ashes. Prices for the full-size urns we carry on hand range as follows:

- Solid Cedar - \$330
- Solid Birch - \$310
- Solid Walnut - \$325, \$360
- Solid Cherry - \$270
- Solid Oak - \$270, \$325
- Marble - \$220, \$255
- MDF - \$155, \$175, \$245, \$310
- Brass - \$135, \$155, \$160, \$195, \$220, \$230, \$235, \$245, \$250, \$255, \$260, \$270, \$275, \$460
- Rosewood - \$100
- Sheet Bronze - \$95
- Aluminum - \$70, \$180, \$255
- Polypropylene Plastic - \$10 (included w/cremation at no additional charge)

*Estimated Cost of **Urn** (if applicable): \$_____*

D) Urn Vaults: If burying cremated remains in-ground at a cemetery, an urn vault may be required. At many cemeteries, this is included in their fee for burial. Even if not required, some people choose to place the urn inside an urn vault for additional protection. An urn vault is not required if the ashes are to be placed in an above-ground niche. Please review your cemetery’s policies to determine if you will need to purchase an urn vault. Prices range as follows:

- Economy (Polypropylene plastic, sealed, velour liner) - \$135
- Grave Liner (Basic concrete) - \$360
- Plastic Grave Liner (High-impact plastic) - \$560
- Single Reinforced Vault (Concrete construction, plastic liner) - \$785
- Double Reinforced Vault (Concrete construction, ABS & stainless-steel liners) - \$1190

*Estimated Cost of **Urn Vault** (if applicable): \$_____*

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It has always been our policy at Mueller-Bies Funeral Home to allow the family to make merchandise selections in private. After a brief explanation of the caskets, vaults, and/or urns is given by the funeral director, the family can then discuss and make their selections in private. We respect your privacy and will not follow you around as you discuss a very personal decision with your family members.

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Add up the preceding applicable Merchandise items to determine the estimated total cost for this section.

*Total Estimated Cost of Part 2, **Merchandise**: \$_____*

Part III: Cash Advance Items

“What about Obituaries? Flowers? Lunch?”

Cash advance items are funeral-related goods and services that are not provided directly by the funeral home, but are instead purchased from outside sources as needed. Funeral homes may **not** mark these charges up in any way. For your convenience, we can purchase and/or arrange for these items and pay the individual vendors involved; we do ask for payment of these items by the day of the services. Below is a list of common cash advance items.

Certified copies of a death certificate: In Minnesota, these copies cost \$13 for the first copy and \$6 for each copy thereafter. They are purchased from the state and are needed for insurance, title transfers and other financial transactions. *Estimated Cost: \$_____*

Cemetery charges: Costs vary among cemeteries. We will assume for this purpose you have already purchased the grave lots from the cemetery. Local interment fees (their charge to open and close the grave) for casketed burial generally range from \$1400 to \$2000, and for cremated remains it typically ranges from \$1100 to \$1700. At Fort Snelling, graves, interment and markers are provided at no cost to those eligible. *Estimated Cost: \$_____*

Crematory charge: The crematory charge is currently \$275. This is included in our charge for immediate cremation, but assessed separately when cremation occurs following services. *Estimated Cost: \$_____*

Clergy/Church honorarium: It is customary to offer the clergy or church that is conducting the funeral service an honorarium. This is typically about \$300. *Estimated Cost: \$_____*

Music honorarium: If there are musicians involved in the service, their fees are normally around \$175 each. *Estimated Cost: \$_____*

Obituary Notices: Obituary notices are charged by the line in Minneapolis and St. Paul; the longer the notice, the more expensive the price. The average cost for one day's notice is approximately \$350-\$400 per paper; adding a photo increases the per day cost by about \$125. *Estimated Cost: \$_____*

Flowers: Floral costs vary among florists. Family bouquets usually cost \$175 to \$400 per arrangement. *Estimated Cost: \$_____*

Motorcycle escorts: If a funeral procession is planned, at least one escort is necessary to control traffic. Additional escorts may be needed depending on size of procession and distance to be travelled. The charge is \$275 plus sales tax, per escort. *Estimated Cost: \$_____*

Coroner Cremation Approval Fee: If cremation is desired, the cremation MUST be approved by the medical examiner that has jurisdiction in the county in which the death occurred. Most medical examiners charge for this approval and the fees usually range from \$50 to \$100. *Estimated Cost: \$_____*

Luncheon: If a luncheon is to be held, the cost will vary depending on the location, the food, and the number served. Church-provided luncheons typically cost no more than \$200-\$500, while catered luncheons can cost anywhere from several hundred dollars to well over \$1000. A good estimate for catered luncheons is approximately \$15 per plate. *Estimated Cost: \$_____*

*Total Estimated Cost of Part 3, **Cash Advances:** \$_____*

TOTAL ESTIMATE

Take the totals from each of the three categories – **Services**, **Merchandise**, and **Cash Advances** – and add them together to reach your total estimated service cost.

Estimated Cost from Part 1, **Services** (Page 1): \$ _____

Estimated Cost from Part 2, **Merchandise** (Page 3): \$ _____

Estimated Cost from Part 3, **Cash Advances** (Page 4): \$ _____

TOTAL ESTIMATED FUNERAL COST: \$ _____

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### **Part IV: Miscellaneous      “What about all those ‘extra costs’ I often hear about?”**

There is often a perception - unfortunately, sometimes justified - that funeral homes will try to “nickel-and-dime” you with various miscellaneous hidden fees and charges. At Mueller-Bies, we believe in being straightforward and clear. We strive to be as upfront and simple in our pricing as we can. We do not surprise you with add-on charges for many commonly assessed items, such as:

*One-hour visitation prior to funeral or memorial service* – Included at no additional charge in our fee for Funeral Ceremony or Memorial Service. Additional hours of visitation after the first are \$150/hour.

*Register book, memorial folders/cards, acknowledgement cards, and casket cross/crucifix* – These items are complimentary. Other funeral providers will charge hundreds of dollars for this package.

*Planning of memorial services elsewhere* - In the case of direct cremation or burial, you may opt not to have our staff in attendance at memorial services held outside of the funeral home. Full assistance in planning and coordinating of these types of services is still included in our basic service charges, even if we won't be physically present at them.

*Submitting obituaries to newspapers* – We consider placing the obituary to be a basic service, and do not charge to submit notices to the newspaper on your behalf. Obituary charges will only be the exact amount charged to us by the paper.

*Online obituary on funeral home website* – We will gladly place an obituary on our website at no charge, with no restrictions on length.

*After-hours service calls* – Many funeral providers have surcharges if the death occurs at night or on a weekend. Our charge for transportation of the body is always the same, be it day or night, weekday or weekend, workday or holiday. We feel you shouldn't be penalized just because your loss occurred outside normal working hours.

*Storage of remains/refrigeration* – If it is necessary to store or refrigerate the body for a period of time prior to services or disposition, there will be no additional charges.

*Care of autopsied remains* – Occasionally the circumstances of the death require an autopsy be performed. This is almost always beyond the control of the family, and thus we feel it is unfair to assess additional surcharges specifically to care for the autopsied remains.

***More on back...***

*Private family viewing prior to direct cremation/burial* – Viewing of the body and paying last respects are an integral part of the grieving process. Should any member of the immediate family need an opportunity to privately say goodbye prior to direct cremation/burial, they will have an opportunity to do so here in the comfortable setting of the funeral home at no charge.

*Cremation container* – When cremating, a container meeting minimum requirements set by state regulation is required to house the body during transportation and cremation. We include this minimum container in our direct cremation charge. Not only do some providers not include the container in their advertised price, they may try to sell you an unnecessary, more expensive container as well.

*Vault delivery, installation, and tent at cemetery* - Included with vault purchase. Many funeral homes will charge these as cash advance items, potentially adding hundreds of unforeseen dollars to the posted price of the vault. Our vault prices already have these fees built-in, so the vault will not cost you more than advertised. *Please note: some cemeteries do not allow installation of these items by the vault company and will charge you directly for their installations.*

*Interest* - No interest charged on balances due for 60 days.

*Credit Card Fees* – No additional fees for paying by credit card.

*"Membership Fees"* – We are grateful for your consideration of Mueller-Bies as your chosen funeral provider. We would never charge you a fee to simply place your name on a list.

*Guarantee for pre-paid funeral expenses* - If the total Funeral Home charges (Services & Merchandise) are paid in advance, they will never cost the family any more out of pocket, no matter how much prices rise in the future. Some funeral homes will charge you an added fee to "lock-in" your guarantee – many others simply don't offer a guarantee at all. (Please note that Cash Advance items cannot be guaranteed.)

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An additional aspect of our straightforward pricing philosophy is that our overhead expenses are part of our basic service charges. Since we charge what we need to up front, follow-on services and merchandise are priced near the actual cost of providing them to you. This means you will not be subjected to upselling or pressure tactics in an attempt to make you spend more, as our fixed expenses have already been met. We tailor the funeral services to the needs of you and your family, not to the needs of our budget.

Many funeral homes will advertise low initial prices to bring you in, but subsequent items will often be greatly overpriced, aggressively pushed, or part of costly and unnecessary service and merchandise bundles. With our pricing structure, our focus is free to be on providing the best possible service to you, not on our bottom line.

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This planner is meant as an aid in estimating total funeral services cost, and **it is not a final statement of costs that may be incurred**. Please note that there are items not covered in this planner that may result in additional charges, such as livestreaming, recording, casket, urn, or vault customizations, miscellaneous memorial merchandise, etc. Additional fees may be incurred if funeral or memorial services take place on an evening or weekend. There may also be variations in the service charges listed depending on location and order of service. See the attached General Price List for details. Please contact us or consult with your funeral director to receive a complete, thorough, detailed estimate of your specific service needs.

For more information, contact us at:

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## General Price List

*These prices are effective as of October 1, 2025 but are subject to change without notice.*

The goods and services shown below are those we can provide to our customers. You may choose only the items you desire. However, any funeral arrangements you select will include a charge for our basic services and overhead. If legal or other requirements mean you must buy any items you did not specifically ask for, we will explain the reason in writing on the statement we provide describing the funeral goods and services you selected.

This list does not include prices for certain items that you may ask us to buy for you, such as cemetery or crematory services, flowers, newspaper notices, death certificates, clergy/church and/or musician services. The prices for those items will be shown on your bill or the statement describing the funeral goods and services you selected.

## Professional Service Charges

### **Basic Services of Funeral Director and Overhead (Non-Declinable) - - - - - \$ 3000.00**

Our basic service charge includes, but is not limited to, staff to respond to initial request for service; arrangement conference with family or responsible party; preparation and filing of necessary certificates and permits; placement of obituary notices; planning of funeral arrangements; and coordination of service with cemetery, crematory, vault companies and others as required. Also included in this charge are overhead expenses relative to our facility such as insurance, maintenance and utility expenses, secretarial and administrative costs, and equipment and inventory expenses.

This fee for our basic services and overhead will be added to the total cost of the funeral arrangements you select. (This fee is already included in our charges for direct cremations, immediate burials, and forwarding or receiving remains.)

### **Embalming- - - - - \$ 700.00**

Except in certain special cases, embalming is not required by law. Embalming may be necessary, however, if you select certain funeral arrangements, such as a funeral with viewing. If you do not want embalming, you usually have the right to choose an arrangement that does not require you to pay for it, such as direct cremation or immediate burial or when refrigeration or use of dry ice is available.

### **Other Preparation of The Body (Cosmetics, dressing and casketing)- - - - - \$ 350.00**

Washing, disinfecting or other care of unembalmed remains - - - - - \$ 250.00

## Use of Facilities, Equipment & Staff

### **Visitation (Funeral Home, Church or Other - Day prior to service, or Only) - - - - - \$ 500.00**

### **Funeral or Memorial Service with Committal (Funeral Home, Church or Other) - - - - - \$ 700.00**

\*Includes Visitation 1 hour prior to service; Committal may follow service or luncheon

\*Each **Additional** hour of visitation prior to Service - - - - - \$ 150.00

### **Funeral or Memorial Service - No Committal (Funeral Home, Church or Other) - - - - - \$ 500.00**

\*Includes Visitation 1 hour prior to service; No committal, or committal at later date

\*Each **Additional** hour of visitation prior to Service - - - - - \$ 150.00

Graveside service only (or cemetery committal service if different day than Funeral/Memorial service) - - - - - \$ 300.00

## Automotive Equipment

### **Transfer Of Remains To Funeral Home (30 Mile Radius) - - - - - \$ 550.00**

The charge for additional miles is \$3.00 per mile (one way charge only)

### **Hearse/Funeral Coach (30 Mile Radius) (Funeral Ceremony and transportation to cemetery/crematory) - - - - - \$ 400.00**

The charge for additional miles is \$3.00 per mile (one way charge only)

Delayed Committal (When cemetery committal takes place after post-service luncheon) - - - - - \$ 250.00

Delivery Hearse (30 mile radius) (Church set-up or Graveside service) - - - - - \$ 350.00

Clergy Sedan and/or Service/Utility Vehicle (30 mile radius) - - - - - \$ 200.00

## Merchandise

|                                                        |                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Caskets-</b> -----                                  | <b>-\$ 1170.00 to \$ 3870.00</b> |
| (A complete list will be provided at the funeral home) |                                  |
| <b>Outer Burial Containers-</b> -----                  | <b>-\$ 1750.00 to \$ 5670.00</b> |
| (A complete list will be provided at the funeral home) |                                  |
| <b>Urns</b> -----                                      | <b>-\$ 10.00 to \$ 460.00</b>    |
| (A complete list will be provided at the funeral home) |                                  |
| <b>Cremation Outer Burial Containers-</b> -----        | <b>\$ 135.00 to \$ 1190.00</b>   |
| (A complete list will be provided at the funeral home) |                                  |
| <b>Alternative Container-</b> -----                    | <b>\$ 75.00</b>                  |

## Specific Services

### **Forwarding Remains to Another Funeral Home/Mortuary- - - - - \$ 3500.00**

This charge includes removal of remains, basic services of staff, embalming, necessary authorizations, and transportation to airport. This charge does not include visitation, rites or ceremonies prior to forwarding of the body. The cost of other than local transportation in vehicles of funeral home/mortuary is \$3.00 per mile.

### **Receiving Remains From Another Funeral Home/Mortuary - - - - - \$ 3100.00**

This charge includes local transportation of remains from airport to funeral home, temporary shelter of remains, basic services of staff and local transportation of remains to cemetery or crematory. This charge does not include visitation, rites or ceremonies.

### **Direct Cremations (Price Range) - - - - - \$ 3325.00 to \$ 7195.00**

The charge for a direct cremation includes local removal of remains, local transportation to crematory, work to obtain necessary authorizations, and basic services of staff. This charge **does include** the crematory fee, but not the use of facilities and staff for any visitation or ceremony, public or private, prior to the cremation; or cremation approval fees assessed by coroners/medical examiners.

*Federal Disclaimer: If you want to arrange a direct cremation, you can use an alternative container. Alternative containers encase the body and can be made of materials like fiberboard or composition materials (with or without an outside covering). The containers we provide are wood base fiberboard/cardboard.*

*MN Disclaimer: Minnesota law does not require you to purchase a casket for cremation. If you want to arrange a cremation, you can use a cremation container. A cremation container is a combustible, closed container that encases the body and can be made of materials like fiberboard or corrugated cardboard and into which a dead human body is placed prior to insertion into a cremation chamber for cremation. The containers we provide are wood base fiberboard/cardboard.*

1. Direct Cremation with container provided by purchaser- - - - - **\$ 3325.00**
2. Direct Cremation with wood base fiberboard/cardboard - - - - - **\$ 3400.00**
3. Direct Cremation with casket purchased from funeral home (excludes cost of casket) - - - - - **\$ 3325.00**

### **Immediate Burials (Price Range)- - - - - \$ 3750.00 to \$ 7620.00**

The charge for immediate burial includes local removal of remains, care of unembalmed remains, local transportation to the cemetery, the necessary authorizations and basic services of staff, and use of staff for a committal/graveside ceremony at the cemetery. This charge does not include the use of facilities and staff for any visitation or ceremony, public or private, prior to any committal service.

1. Immediate burial with casket provided by purchaser - - - - - **\$ 3750.00**
2. Immediate burial with casket purchased from funeral home (excludes cost of casket) - - - - - **\$ 3750.00**

### **Other Use of Services / Facilities / Equipment**

- Weekend Service Surcharge (Funeral/Memorial/Graveside) - - - - - **\$ 350.00**
- Evening/Holiday Funeral/Memorial Service Surcharge (4:30 PM or later Sun-Fri, 3:30 PM or later Sat)- - - - - **\$ 300.00**
- Livestreaming & Recording (at funeral home) - - - - - **\$ 200.00**
- Livestreaming & Recording (remote location) - - - - - **\$ 300.00**

### **Use of Chapel / Staff Charges**

*When cremation is performed locally by provider other than Mueller-Bies:*

- Memorial Service with 1 Hour Visitation including staff (Funeral Home, Church, or other)- - - - - **\$1500.00**
- With committal service* - - - - - **\$1700.00**
- Memorial Visitation (up to 4 Hours)- - - - - **\$1300.00**
- Memorial Service & Visitation Package (Visitation day before memorial service) - - - - - **\$1800.00**
- With committal service* - - - - - **\$2000.00**

*For bodily donation cases or when prior disposition is outside our service area*

- Memorial Service with 1 Hour Visitation including staff (Funeral Home, Church, or other)- - - - - **\$ 950.00**
- Memorial Visitation (up to 4 Hours) - - - - - **\$ 750.00**
- Memorial Service & Visitation Package (Visitation day before memorial service) - - - - - **\$1350.00**
- Miscellaneous Professional Services Only (Planning/Printing/Obituaries etc./no funeral home staff at service)- - - - - **\$ 650.00**