

Peaceful Crossings(tm)

Funeral Options Summary

<u>Option</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Est. Cost</u>	<u>Pros</u>	<u>Cons</u>	<u>Considerations</u>
Traditional Full-Service Funeral	Usually involves embalming, using a fancy casket, having an open-casket wake, a funeral ceremony, procession, and graveside service.	\$10-15k	Supports tradition, funeral industry well established and prepared.	Most expensive option, often “sterile”, very eco-unfriendly.	Pre-planning and shopping around (rather than going to the closest funeral home or one that your family has used before) can save a lot of money.
Direct Burial	Burial without a visitation. Sometimes includes a brief service at the gravesite followed by a gathering or memorial service. Does not require embalming and usually a short private viewing can be arranged prior to the burial if requested.	\$2,000-\$4,000	Does not require embalming, more eco-friendly than traditional funeral. Less expensive than full service funeral.	Can hinder grief process of family and friends if they do not have a chance to gather and mourn.	Costs include the funeral home's basic services fee, as well as transportation and care of the body, the purchase of a casket or burial container and a cemetery plot or crypt. If the family chooses to be at the cemetery for the burial, the funeral home often charges an additional fee for a graveside service.
Traditional Funeral with Cremation	Much like a traditional full service funeral, but with the option of a closed casket or only cremains present to avoid embalming.	\$4,000-\$8,000	Can avoid embalming if done quickly, much better for environment	Still somewhat eco-unfriendly (releases toxins into the air, lots of fuel required) often “sterile,” somewhat expensive.	Pre-planning and shopping around (rather than going to the closest funeral home or one that your family has used before) can save a lot of money.
Direct Cremation	Cremation without a visitation and usually without a church service. A brief service at the crematorium or a memorial service after the cremation are possibilities. The cremains are then buried in a cemetery or kept in an urn.	\$800 - \$3000	Does not require embalming, more eco-friendly than traditional funeral. Less expensive than full service funeral.	Can hinder grief process of family and friends if they do not have a chance to gather and mourn.	Costs include the funeral home's basic services fee, as well as transportation and care of the body. A crematory fee may be included or, if the funeral home does not own the crematory, the fee may be added on. There also will be a charge for an urn or other container. The cost of a cemetery plot or crypt is included only if the remains are buried or entombed. Often Cremation Societies have lower prices than funeral homes.
Cremation and scattering	Much like direct cremation, except some or all of cremains are scattered rather than buried or kept in an urn.	\$800-\$2000	Most flexible option, can be least expensive choice.	Somewhat eco unfriendly, somewhat limited by scattering laws.	Make sure to check laws and regulations regarding scattering.
Home Funeral	Allows for families to care for a decedent and all aspects of a funeral at home	\$700 - \$1500	Most natural and most personal option. Fitting for people of all faiths. Can be least expensive option.	Requires pre-planning and firm support of next of kin. In MI, limited funeral home options.	In Michigan, a funeral home director is required to sign off on all death certificates. The Green Burial Council provides a list of funeral home directors who support home funerals. A "death midwife" can be hired to assist with many aspects of a home funeral, including preparing and transporting the body.
Green Burial	Choosing end-of-life rituals, disposition options, and products that do not involve the use of toxic chemicals or non-biodegradable materials.	\$1500-3000	Most eco friendly & natural – avoid pollutants and body returns nutrients to Earth. Least expensive option (free!). Your body is put to scientific/medical research use.	Limited time window to avoid embalming, limited number of certified green burial locations and funeral homes.	The Green Burial Council certifies funeral homes, products, and cemeteries that are eco-friendly. Embalming is still possible if specifically eco-friendly products are used, but few funeral homes offer this service.
Donation to Science	Body donated to science	\$0		Once body is transported you <i>may</i> lose control over what happens from there.	Receiving organization typically pays costs of transporting body. Some organizations will return cremated body upon request.