



How to Shop for Direct Cremation

All funeral homes are required by law to offer a package called "Direct Cremation." This is the simplest of arrangements with no embalming, and no viewing or service held at a funeral home.

You can arrange and pay over the phone so you don't need to visit the funeral home. This means location should not be a factor in making your choice. Using a funeral home that is out of town or out of state can save you *hundreds or even thousands of dollars!* There is a huge range of prices for Direct Cremation between funeral homes in the Philly area — from **\$750 to \$4,340** — *for the same exact thing!* It pays to shop around, and that's easy to do because funeral homes are required by law to give prices over the phone.

Included in the Direct Cremation Package: Transporting the body from the place of death to the funeral home and the crematory, obtaining the disposition permit, arranging for the cremation, filing the death certificate, and returning the ashes locally in a simple container.

Cash advance items (do not need to and may not be included in package price):

- Crematory charge for cremation (\$200—\$495 depending on crematory used)
- State charge for death certificates (generally \$9 each, \$6 outside Philly)
- Coroner/Medical Examiner consent (\$50—\$75)
- Newspapers charges for obituaries

Funeral homes may charge extra for:

- Mileage if outside regular service area (\$1—\$5 per mile)
- Pick up from home vs. hospital or if a second person is needed
- Mailing or disposing of ashes
- Ask about and then do not use a funeral home that charges you to "ID" the body
- Ask about fees for refrigeration. They vary widely and some do not charge.

Additional costs for optional items:

- Cemetery charge for plot or columbarium
- Monument dealer charge for headstone/marker
- Vault (if required by cemetery)
- Fancier urn, embalming, viewing, funeral or memorial service in funeral home, etc.

In lieu of a viewing in a funeral home, you can keep the body home for up to 24 hours to say goodbye. Cooling is required after that, so if you want more time but no embalming, choose a funeral home that offers refrigeration (or you can use dry ice at home). If you want to have a home viewing and/or home funeral, talk to us about how to prepare.

In lieu of a service in a funeral home, have a memorial service whenever and wherever you want.

Many religious institutions, restaurants, clubs, etc. will charge little to nothing, and few will match the \$300—\$1,400 that funeral homes charge for a memorial service. With no body present there is no need to invite (or pay) the funeral director who arranged for the cremation.

The funeral homes listed here are the most reasonably priced for whom we were able to obtain price information. If you find others, please let us know! A good faith effort was made to report information accurately, however many Philadelphia area funeral home price lists are a confusing mess and it can be very difficult to ascertain the actual price of some items. In addition, some funeral directors told us that they don't strictly adhere to the prices on their price lists and will often offer lower prices when working with people. The primary purpose of this survey is to educate, not replace your own shopping. Federal law requires funeral directors to give prices over the phone. Call and ask the price for "direct cremation" then ask if that includes the crematory fee and if there are any other charges. Let us know how it goes!

Funeral Home	Phone	Direct Cremation*
Kenneth William Murphy Funeral Home	215-334-3810	\$750
Compagnola Funeral Home	215-324-9002	\$899
Alloway Funeral Home	856-663-9085	\$900
Cremstar	267-469-0006	\$995
McCaggerty Funeral and Cremation	215-624-4200	\$995
Eugene A Gniewek	215-423-0432	\$995
Walter J Meyers Funeral Home	215-338-3799	\$999
Jason Lloyd Funeral Home Inc	215-278-2776	\$1,045
Cordoza Jack Funeral Home	215-763-4456	\$1,200
Khadijah Alderman Funeral Service	215-225-6600	\$1,250
Ervina White Beauford Funeral Service	215-927-4546	\$1,275
Marvina Hudson Bolton Memorial	267-639-9028	\$1,295
Slater Funeral Home Ltd	215-545-3055	\$1,300
Sheffield Funeral Home	215-549-8566	\$1,300
Len E. Ellis Funeral Home	215-228-3883	\$1,357
Nicos C. Elis Funeral Home	610-433-2200	\$1,375
Tri-State Cremation Society of Del Val	855-396-3700	\$1,395

* Includes an alternative container and the crematory fee