



Arranging a Funeral or Cremation in Charlotte

Direct cremation service \$1,225 Call (704) 233-7037

This funeral and cremation planning guide aims to answer some of the key questions you may have if faced with the task of making funeral arrangements. Whether you are researching with an interest to make a cremation plan for yourself, or need to arrange a funeral or cremation service for a loved one who has passed. We have put together the following FAQs about cremation costs and funeral prices in the Charlotte area, as well as state funeral laws, and where you can go to find help.

First call: What to do when a death occurs

The first thing that you will need to do when a death occurs is to select a funeral home to handle funeral arrangements, and transfer the deceased into their care. The majority of deaths occur in a medical facility, where they can be held for a short period in the hospital morgue if necessary. It is important not to feel like you must rush this decision. Give yourself some time to select the right funeral service provider for your needs.

How to choose a funeral home or cremation service provider?

If your loved one had no funeral plan, and you have no prior experience with a funeral home, this can be a difficult task. There are around 30 funeral service providers in Charlotte. If you want to have a funeral ceremony, the actual location of the funeral home may be an important consideration. Also, if you are working to a specific financial budget for the funeral cost, you will likely want to make funeral price comparisons, before selecting a suitable funeral home.

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What are the funeral service or cremation service options in Charlotte?

With the range of funeral service locations serving the Charlotte area, you can arrange anything from a full-service traditional funeral to a simple direct cremation service. Decide if you want a traditional funeral, something more modern like a life celebration service, or if you want to consider cremation as a more affordable option.

What is the average cost of a funeral service in Charlotte?

According to a recent survey, **the average funeral cost for an adult funeral in Charlotte is \$5,352**, but can range between \$4,210 and \$6,495. This is based on the most commonly selected items for a traditional funeral including a casket and vault. However, it does not include cemetery costs. **A grave space, a grave marker, and opening/closing the grave can easily cost another \$1,500 to \$2,500 . Therefore, a typical traditional funeral and burial cost is likely at least \$7,500.**

How much does a cremation cost in Charlotte?

It is often more difficult to quote cremation prices as it is dependent on the type of cremation service you opt for. Whether you opt for a cremation with a traditional service or a direct cremation without a service. Cremation is definitely a cheaper alternative to a tradition funeral, but **a cremation with a memorial service will still cost upwards of \$3,000.**

A simple cremation service with no ceremony, is referred to as a “[direct cremation](#)” in the funeral industry. **A direct cremation can be arranged for \$1,225 in Charlotte.** This is the most economical funeral service arrangement available to families. The cost of a simple cremation can, however, still vary between different funeral service providers in Charlotte, and is likely to cost nearer to \$3,000. How much your cremation will cost will largely depend upon what type of cremation service you select, and which provider you opt to conduct the service.

It can be a good idea to check what is included in a low-cost direct cremation package to ensure there are no hidden fees. Sometimes what can appear low-cost can have additional fees added to the full package price.

County fees are generally ‘third-party’ additional charges – such as death certificates and cremation permits. But, some affordable direct cremation packages may include a death certificate and cremation permit fee. Extra charges that can be incurred on a budget direct cremation are fees for if a residential collection is required, if the deceased weighs over 300 pounds, and if a pace-maker needs to be removed prior to cremation.

[What legal issues do I need to understand about arranging a funeral?](#)

In North Carolina, there is a mandatory waiting period of 24 hours after death before a cremation can be performed. That being said, it usually takes about 3 days to make all the necessary arrangements and complete the paperwork but an expedited service can be arranged if required.

Generally, the funeral director will obtain the death certificate for you and will ask how many copies you require. Copies of a death certificate can be obtained from N.C. Vital Records. The office is at: North Carolina Vital Records (Cooper Memorial Health Building)

225 N. McDowell St., Raleigh, NC 27603

The first copy costs \$24.00, with each additional copy charged at \$15.00. If a same-day service is required it will cost an additional \$15.00.

[Who is responsible for paying for a funeral?](#)

If the deceased did not pre-arrange and pre-pay for a funeral plan, then the responsibility for paying for a funeral falls to the immediate next of kin. This can, understandably, be quite a burden for many people, and is why more seniors today are considering setting up simple cremation arrangements.

Pre-planning can be a simple and affordable option, giving families peace of mind for when the time comes. ***Be aware that whomever signs the funeral contract with the funeral home is considered legally responsible for payment of the funeral bill.***

If you are interested in pre-arranging a simple cremation plan, contact your local DFS Memorials location on [\(704\) 233-7037](tel:7042337037).

[What happens if the deceased is at the County Medical Examiner’s?](#)

If the death occurred outside of a medical facility, was an accident, or unexplained, the body will be transferred to the Medical Examiner’s office. It is the responsibility of the coroner to determine a cause of death before a death certificate can be issued. You will need to arrange for a funeral home to collect your loved one once the coroner releases the body.

Only a licensed funeral director can transport the deceased from the ME's morgue, and the next of kin will need to sign a release form for the Medical Examiner to release the body into the care of a funeral home.

The Medical Examiner will issue the death certificate and permit to cremate once they release the body. If you have further questions about identifying the body and making arrangements for the transfer of the deceased, you can contact the Mecklenburg County Medical Examiner at (704) 336-2005. Alternatively, you can find them at:

Mecklenburg County Medical Examiner
3440 Reno Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28216

[How do I prepare if my loved one is in hospice care?](#)

If your loved one is in hospice care, and the support staff have advised you to prepare for his or her passing, it can help to have made provisional arrangements. This means that when the time comes, the hospice can immediately contact the funeral service provider and arrange the transfer of your loved one into their care. If you contact a funeral home ahead of time, you can have some of the preparation in place, this can make it easier when the time comes, alleviating some of the stress that comes with having to make arrangements on short notice. This also means the hospice know who to call, and the authorizations and other legal documentation can be pre-prepared.

[What help with funeral expenses is there for low-income or uninsured families?](#)

More and more families are finding themselves in a position of not being able to pay for funeral expenses. Unfortunately, there is very limited public or state assistance for funeral costs. The state takes care of any indigent deaths (as is their responsibility) but this is done by the means of a pauper burial or cremation. Social Security offer a \$255 death benefit payment (if qualifying) and the funeral director will be able to assist you with claiming this. You may also find it useful to read our article on '[What are your options on how to pay for a funeral or cremation?](#)'. It provides more information on how you can raise funds to cover funeral expenses.

[What can I legally do with the cremated remains? Laws for scattering ashes in North Carolina](#)

As the cremation rate increases, more people are opting to scatter their loved one's remains. State law in North Carolina permits for the scattering of cremated remains on private land (with the consent of the landowner). Ashes may also be scattered over any uninhabited public land, public waterways or at sea, so long as Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations and common-sense guidelines are adhered to. If you scatter the ashes yourself, the general guidance is to scatter at least 100 yards from any road, trail, and body of water or developed facility. It is advisable to wait a little time before scattering, just to be sure about the decision, as it is irreversible. Alternatively, choose to keep a small amount of ashes in a keepsake urn or memento.

Cremated remains are sterile, organic matter and pose no threat to the environment. However, it is wise to ensure you use safe scattering techniques. You can read more about this in our [Ash Scattering](#) section.

I want to pre-plan a simple cremation. What is the best way to set up a cremation plan in Charlotte?

You can make pre-arrangements with a funeral home and/or crematory. The terms and payment plans may differ depending on your requirements and age. And whether you make payment in full at the time of purchasing your pre-need plan, or opt to arrange a payment plan.

More cremation providers are now offering online arrangement services, so all this can be done from the comfort of your own home. Pre-planning can provide you with funeral service coverage that will give you and your family peace of mind, reducing the stress associated with making last-minute funeral arrangements after a loved one has passed. To discuss your options for pre-planning a simple cremation in Charlotte, contact your local provider on [\(704\) 233-7037](tel:7042337037).

Arranging a green burial in Charlotte

In a recent survey, The National Funeral Directors Association discovered that 72% of funeral homes reported an increase in interest in green burial from families. At present, families typically have 2 options – traditional burial or cremation. However, a ‘natural’ green burial is less expensive than a traditional burial, and more environmentally-friendly than a cremation.

There are currently three cemeteries offering green burial options in North Carolina. Typically, a green funeral will cost between \$3,000 and \$5,000.

Carolina Memorial Sanctuary located in Asheville in Western NC is a Conservation Burial Ground, and there are and there are also 3 Hybrid green cemeteries. Details can be found on our [Green Burial Directory](#).

Visit our [green burial resource section](#) for more information.

What about no-cost cremation?

A “no-cost” cremation generally refers to a whole body donation program where the deceased’s remains are cremated free of charge after the donation. If you wish to donate your body to science in North Carolina, Wake Forest University’s Baptist Medical Center accepts donations for educational purposes. Transportation to the facility is the responsibility of the family and the cremated remains are returned to family after two years. For more information, visit our page on [Body Donation](#).

Is it possible to have a private viewing before a simple cremation?

Yes, you can arrange for a private ‘goodbye’ viewing before a direct cremation. However, this often depends upon the availability of facilities, staff and scheduling. Sometimes, it can be arranged at no additional cost, but this can often be dependent on whether there is a need for additional staff, in which case there may be a fee. It is best to consult your chosen funeral service provider for more details regarding private viewing.

Do I need a casket for a cremation service?

No, there is no requirement (or law) that stipulates a casket is needed for a cremation service. A simple cremation is usually conducted using a simple reinforced cardboard container. It is, however, possible to rent a casket if you wish to have a service before the cremation. This can also help you save on funeral costs.

I have questions, or concerns, about arranging a funeral in Charlotte. Where can I find help?

You can contact our DFS Memorials affordable funeral service provider in Charlotte with any questions you have. If you should have reason to be dissatisfied with the services or products provided to you by a licensed funeral home in North Carolina, you can make a formal complaint to: North Carolina Board of Funeral Service, 1033 Wade Avenue, Suite 108, Raleigh, NC 27605 Phone: (919) 733-9380 or find [more information here](#)

Feel free to contact us at US Funerals Online and we will try and help you if you have further questions about arranging a funeral or cremation service.