



How to Shop for Direct Cremation

Every funeral home offers a package called Direct Cremation. It is very simple and there is no embalming and no viewing or service is held in a funeral home.

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 (not included in package price):

- Crematory charge for cremation (\$190—\$550 depending on crematory used)
- State charge for death certificates (generally \$25 for 1st and \$5 for each additional)
- State charge for disposition permit (\$5)
- Newspaper charges for obituaries

Funeral homes may charge extra for:

- Mileage if outside regular service area (\$1.50 - \$5 per mile)
- Pick up from home (vs. hospital, nursing home) or if a second person is needed
- Mailing or disposing of ashes
- Ask about fees for refrigeration. They vary widely and some do not charge.

Additional costs for optional items:

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

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 New Jersey — from \$750 to \$5,800 — for the same exact thing. It pays to shop around and because federal law requires funeral directors to give prices over the phone, it's easy!

Instead of a viewing in a funeral home, you can keep the body home for up to 48 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.

Instead 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 funeral home charge for a memorial service. With no body to deal with, there is no need for a funeral director.

These are the most reasonable prices for direct cremation. A good faith effort was made to report prices accurately; however the primary purpose of this survey is to educate not replace your own shopping. Call several funeral homes and ask their price for Direct Cremation. Ask if that includes the alternative container and the crematory fee and if there are other charges you should know about.

Funeral Home	Phone	Direct Cremation*
Affordable Funeral & Cremation - <i>Member Price</i>	888-213-4090	\$745
Riverside Memorial Chapel - <i>Member Price</i>	609-771-9109	\$745
Warner-Wozniak Funeral Service	973-779-4664	\$845
Ledford Funeral Home	609-393-4567	\$850
Attentive Crem Serv / Aloia Funeral Home / Growney FH	973-340-7077	\$886
Direct Cremations	908-433-1776	\$950
All Faiths Cremation Service/Jaqui-Kuhn - <i>Member Price</i>	732-804-0295	\$995
Apyre National Cremation Services	855-812-7973	\$1,000
Fertig Funeral Home	856-478-2576	\$1,045
Gaita Memorial Home	973-256-2224	\$1,050
Cremstar – Fennell and Blue Funeral Chapel	800-802-0999	\$1,104
Cremstar of New Jersey	800-802-0999	\$1,144
Soto Funeral Home	973-500-4890	\$1,200

* Includes an alternative container and the crematory fee

FCAP Member Price = discounted because you know what you want and it is simple! Don't waste your or the funeral directors time by visiting. It can all be taken care of over the phone.

Become a member by making a tax deductible donation: funeralnj.org/donate

Interested in knowing how much other funeral homes charge as well as addresses, websites, and prices for funeral services and more? Check out all our surveys: funeralnj.org

May 2022