



## How to Shop for Direct Cremation

Every funeral home offers a package called Direct Cremation. It is the simplest and least expensive option. There is no embalming, no viewing and no service 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 (\$200—\$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) because 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 \$900 to \$5,800 — for the same exact thing. It pays to shop around and it's easy because federal law requires funeral directors to give prices over the phone!

**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 ahead of time 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. These numbers assume the deceased is less than 250 lbs and being picked up from a home in Mercer County. 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*
Attentive Crem Serv/Aloia Funeral Home	973-340-7077	<b>\$886</b>
Riverside Memorial Chapel - <b>Member Price</b>	609-771-9109	<b>\$895</b>
Affordable Funeral & Cremation - <b>Member Price</b>	888-213-4090	<b>\$900</b>
Direct Cremations (+mileage)	908-433-1776	<b>\$975</b>
All Faiths Cremation Service/Jaqui-Kuhn - <b>Member Price</b>	732-804-0295	<b>\$1,095</b>
Aftercare Cremation Services	732-605-4197	<b>\$1,095</b>
Fertig Funeral Home	856-478-2576	<b>\$1,100</b>
Gaita Memorial Home	973-256-2224	<b>\$1,150</b>
Apyre National Cremation Services/Chubenko	855-812-7973	<b>\$1,250</b>
Cremstar of New Jersey	800-802-0999	<b>\$1,341</b>
Ruby Memorial - <b>Member Price</b>	732-658-3289	<b>\$1,595</b>

\* Includes an alternative container (cardboard/fiberboard) and the crematory fee.

**FCAP Member Price = discounted price** because you know what you want and it is simple! Make sure you understand exactly what is and is not included in the Direct Cremation package (description on other side). Don't waste your or the funeral directors time by scheduling an in-person visit with them or **you may lose your discount**. Everything can be taken care of over the phone.

**Become a member** by making a tax deductible donation: [funeralnj.org/donate](http://funeralnj.org/donate)

**Funeral Consumers Alliance of Princeton, 50 Cherry Hill Road, Princeton, NJ 08540  
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