

Funeral Home Costs Include:

### **1. Basic services fee for the funeral director and staff**

The Funeral Rule allows funeral providers to charge a basic services fee that customers cannot decline to pay.

- \* includes services that are common to all funerals
- \* funeral planning, securing the necessary permits and copies of death certificates
- \* preparing the notices
- \* sheltering the remains
- \* coordinating the arrangements with the cemetery, crematory or other third parties

### **2. Charges for other services and merchandise**

Costs for optional goods and services such as:

- \* transporting the remains
- \* embalming and other preparation
- \* use of the funeral home for the viewing, ceremony or memorial service
- \* use of equipment and staff for a graveside service
- \* use of a hearse or limousine
- \* casket
- \* outer burial container or alternate container
- \* cremation or interment.

### **3. Cash advances**

These are fees charged by the funeral home for goods and services it buys from outside vendors on your behalf.

## What Do Funeral Home Costs Include?

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- \* flowers
- \* obituary notices
- \* pallbearers
- \* officiating clergy
- \* organists and soloists

Some funeral providers charge you their cost for the items they buy on your behalf.

Others add a service fee to their cost.

The Funeral Rule requires those who charge an extra fee to disclose that fact in writing, although it doesn't require them to specify the amount of their markup.

The Rule also requires funeral providers to tell you if there are refunds, discounts or rebates from the supplier on any cash advance item.

### **SOURCE:**

[Funerals: A Consumer Guide \(FTC Publication\)](#)