Over65FinalExpense

FREE WORKSHEET

Funeral cost worksheet: compare price lists, plan an amount

Two price lists, one total, one plan amount

Ask each funeral home for its general price list, in person or by phone, and copy the lines into the table. The 2023 national medians are shown only as a starting point.

Step 1. Start from the national medians

$8,300
Viewing and burial, before cemetery costs
NFDA national median, 2023

$6,280
Viewing and cremation, before cemetery costs
NFDA national median, 2023

Step 2. Copy two price lists

General education, not insurance, legal or tax advice. Figures are examples unless a source is named. Prices and rules vary by state and insurer.

Line on the price list	Funeral home A	Funeral home B
Basic services of the funeral director		
Transfer of the body		
Embalming, if you choose it		
Viewing or visitation		
Funeral or memorial service		
Casket or alternative container		
Cremation or burial container, urn or vault		
Total from the price list		

> You may buy only the goods and services you want. A funeral home must accept a casket or urn you bought elsewhere and cannot charge a fee for using it.

Step 3. Add what the price list leaves out

Cemetery plot, niche or scattering fee

Grave opening and closing

Headstone or marker

Flowers, obituary and a gathering

Last bills

Step 4. Subtract what is set aside

Savings set aside for this

Prepaid funeral contract (only if sure how it pays)

Old life insurance policy (only if sure how it pays)

Add Step 2 and Step 3, subtract Step 4, and round up to the next $1,000. That is the amount to consider for a small policy.

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Step 5. Test a premium against your budget

Monthly income

Regular monthly bills

Premium you are weighing

Left each month after both

If little is left, price a smaller amount. A policy you can keep for life is worth more than a larger one you may have to drop.

Questions to ask each funeral home

- [ ] May I have the itemized general price list?
- [ ] Which lines are required and which are my choice?
- [ ] What is not included, such as cemetery costs?
- [ ] What happens to my money if I prepay and then move?

Sources

- NFDA: Statistics
  nfda.org/news/statistics
- FTC: Shopping for Funeral Services
  consumer.ftc.gov/articles/shopping-funeral-services
- FTC: Funeral Costs and Pricing Checklist
  consumer.ftc.gov/articles/funeral-costs-pricing-checklist

When you have an amount, see a price at over65finalexpense.com/quote.

over65finalexpense.com/quote or call (888) 635-3511

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