



Funeral Preplanning
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Senior Management Services

Funeral planning is not something that is discussed regularly. Many of us have difficulty even considering that we will need this service at some time and even more difficult, that our loved ones will.

In our seminar, *Elder Caregiving and Beyond* we discuss in detail what planning and even working closely with a funeral home looks like. We will spend this article discussing the benefits of pre-planning a Funeral while you are living. As caregivers, it could be helpful to discuss this information with your loved one from the angle that you want to be aware of their requests and how they want to be honored before the time comes. Share with them the benefits of having this discussion at this time. They will have a peace of mind knowing their wishes have been made and known. The family will not have to make these arrangements during the difficult time of their initial grief. Lastly, there is assurance that thoughtful decisions have been made about the funeral home provider and choice of service. ^a

At Senior Management Services, we do not recommend pre-paying for a funeral unless you need to do so to qualify for a certain benefit (i.e. SSI, Medicaid). That being said; pre-planning (sometimes called pre-need) with a funeral home you or your loved one plans to work with can alleviate much stress and burden at the time of death for those left behind.

When you plan a funeral, you are arranging a celebration of a life. The goal is to give friends and family a chance to reminisce and say goodbye. Keeping this goal in the forefront as you discuss and solidify some of these plans will help you know what to ask and plan.

A traditional funeral, including a casket and vault, typically cost around \$6,000-\$7,000, although extras like flowers and limousines can add thousands to the bottom line. They can easily cost \$10,000. Knowing this information in your planning will be helpful as you look at the details of cremation versus traditional burial, transportation plans, caskets and other preparation.

In addition to the details about the funeral plan, you may want to discuss the plans for the service. This will be determined depending on religious affiliation and when and where the individual will want any memorial to take place. Your loved one can share details as specific to who will conduct the service/memorial and what songs are to be sung, or even just identify what would be honoring to their life.

^a[Preplanning a Funeral](http://www.nfda.org/for-the-public/preplanning-a-funeral)
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For additional information about eldercare, please contact Quest at

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