

What Determines the Cost of a Funeral?

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John A. Gentleman Mortuaries and Crematory in Omaha, NE



When a family member or a close friend has just passed, it may seem crass to think of financial matters-and yet, even during a season of bereavement, families must consider the monetary. You may have a funeral to plan and you may want to make sure it is exactly what the deceased would have wanted, but you also need to know how much the service is going to cost.

This is a more variable figure than you might think. Funerals are hardly one-size-fits-all, and there are a lot of different factors that can determine their total price tag. Some families want their services to be simple and straightforward; others want something more elaborate. Moreover, there isn't a clear indicator as to whether it is more or less expensive to have a cremation or traditional burial; either can be as simple or as elaborate as a family wishes.

More and more families want funeral services to be all-day gatherings of family and friends, which means food and music are required. This is a perfectly acceptable trend, of course, but these families need to know that their bills may be higher.

Ultimately, the total cost of the funeral is well within your control, and you should know roughly how much you're going to be spending *before* the plans become final. Your funeral director should have a list of all the options that are available, along with their corresponding prices. Make sure you sit down with him or her to make some decisions and calculate your total.

More likely than not you can arrange to make a single payment to your funeral director, who will in turn pay the vendors, caterers, florists, and the like. Your funeral director will be an invaluable ally in organizing the whole affair, and this is surely the simplest way to conduct your business.