



# FUNERAL GLOSSARY



## FUNERAL GLOSSARY

- Acknowledgement Cards:** Cards of recognition sent to family and friends for kindness shown to the family of the deceased.
- Air Tray:** A transfer container consisting of a wooden tray with a cardboard covering for the casket.
- Alternative Container:** A non-metal receptacle or enclosure, without ornamentation or a fixed interior lining, designed for the encasement of human remains and made of cardboard, pressed-wood, composition material, pouches of canvas or other materials.
- Autopsy:** The examination of a corpse by the county medical examiner or coroner to determine the cause of death. At Need: At the time of, or immediately following, death.
- Cadaver:** Dead human body donated to medical research. This can be for teaching purposes, anatomical and pathological research.
- Cash Advance:** A charge on a funeral contract for merchandise, services or other items that are not price guaranteed due to the need to contract a third party to deliver the merchandise or services on behalf of the client family.
- Casket Price List (CPL):** An itemized price list of caskets available for purchase from the funeral home describing exterior and interior materials and colors.
- Casket:** Usually rectangular shaped and larger than a coffin; primarily used in the United States and Canada.
- Chapel:** Building or an area of a building in which services are conducted.
- Coach:** A motor vehicle designed and used for the conveyance of casketed remains from place to place, including for removal from place of death.
- Coffin:** Usually six sided and anthropoidal (human-shaped – narrow at the head, wide at the shoulders, narrow at the feet); primarily used in countries outside of the United States and Canada.
- Combination Shipping Case:** A transfer container consisting of a particle-board box with a cardboard tray and cover to satisfy air-shipping regulations.
- Coroner or Medical Examiner:** A public officer whose chief duty is to investigate death when the question of accident, suicide or homicide may be evident or where there was no doctor in attendance.
- Cremated Remains:** A term used to identify human remains after a cremation takes place.
- Cremation:** The reduction of a dead human body to inorganic bone fragments by intense heat in a specifically designed retort or chamber. Aquamation is by water instead of fire.
- Cremation Authorization:** Form signed by each responsible party giving permission to the funeral home to cremate the decedent.
- Cremation Permit:** A certificate issued by local government giving permission for cremation of the decedent.
- Crematory:** A furnace or retort used for cremating a dead human body; a building that houses a retort.
- Death Certificate:** A legal document showing vital statistical data and cause of death pertaining to the decedent.
- Decedent:** A deceased person.
- Direct Cremation:** A disposition of human remains by cremation, without a formal viewing, visitation, or ceremony.

## FUNERAL GLOSSARY

- Disposition:** This is a common industry term used to describe how a decedent is disposed of. Modes of disposition are burial, cremation, entombment, and forwarding of remains.
- Embalmer:** One who is licensed to disinfect, preserve and restore the appearance of a dead human body.
- Escort:** Usually Law Enforcement to accompany as a leader of the procession or guardian of a group to protect.
- Family Car:** The car set aside for the use of the immediate family of a deceased individual.
- Flag Case:** An item usually made of wood and possibly glass designed to hold the United States flag when properly folded into three corners in compliance with the Veteran's Administration regulations.
- Flower Van:** A vehicle used to transport floral tributes from the place of service to the place of disposition.
- Funeral:** Service held at the time of disposition of human remains with the body present.
- Funeral Arrangements:** The financial and service details of a funeral, including the method of payment. Funeral
- Coach:** A vehicle for transporting decedent; may be used on initial removal from place of death or used to transport casketed remains to place of final disposition. Also referred to as a hearse.
- Funeral Director:** A person who arranges and conducts funeral services and counsels with family and friends of the decedent.
- Funeral Home:** A building used for the purpose of embalming, conducting funerals and supplying funeral merchandise.
- Funeral Program:** A pamphlet made available at the funeral service giving details about the decedent and the funeral arrangements.
- General Price List (GPL):** An itemized price list of all goods and services provided by a funeral home or mortuary.
- Goods & Services Contract:** This is part of the funeral contract between the purchaser and funeral home. It details all the chosen goods & services to be provided by the funeral home.
- Hearse:** The vehicle specifically designed for transporting casket remains of deceased. Also referred to as a funeral coach.
- Immediate Burial:** A disposition by burial, without formal viewing, visitation, or ceremony.
- Limousine:** A motor coach seating three or more passengers separately from the driver's compartment.
- Memorial Folder:** A pamphlet made available at the funeral service giving details about the decedent and the funeral arrangements.
- Obituary:** A notice of death of a person, particularly a newspaper notice containing biographical information.
- Preneed:** Anytime prior to death.
- Preparation Room:** The portion of the funeral home designated and equipped for embalming procedures.
- Procession:** The movement of the funeral from one place to another.
- Reception:** A formal receiving of family and friends following a funeral service, graveside or memorial service.
- Register Book:** A memorial book with biographical information and a list of those attending services.
- Removal:** A physical moving of a dead human body, from the place of death to another location.
- Retort:** The cremation chamber in a crematory.
- Service:** A formal gathering and liturgical exercise to honor the decedent.
- Transferability:** The transferring of a prepaid funeral arrangement from one funeral home to another.
- Urn:** Container for cremated human remains.
- Visitation:** Gathering of friends and relatives before the funeral service.
- Wake:** A term often associated with visitation. It specifically refers to a vigil or watch.