



FUNERAL GLOSSARY



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- 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.
- Corpse:** A dead human body.
- Cortege:** A funeral procession.
- 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.

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.

Dressing Room: A facility usually located in close proximity to a preparation room that is used for dressing, cosmetizing, hairdressing and casketing human 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.

In-State: Reserved for dignitaries, casketed remains lie in a designated place for the public to pay respects.

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: Any time 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.