



SUPPORT OUR WORK—BECOME A MEMBER

May 2017

Suggested donation: \$25 individual \$50 household

Please make check payable to: *The Funeral Consumers Alliance of Pennsylvania*

Mail to: 900 South Arlington Ave., Suite 211A, Harrisburg, PA 17109

Or join online at www.funeralpa.org

Name(s) (1) _____ (2) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____ Phone (_____) _____

How did you hear about us? _____

Basic Checklist: Decisions That Need To Be Made

Body Disposition

- Burial Cremation
- Embalming No embalming
(Keeping the body cool after 48 hours is an alternative.)
- Donation

Viewing

- Public Family
- At home At funeral home
- At religious institution
- None

Body present at a funeral service

- Yes No

A Memorial Service held after the body is buried or cremated

- Yes No

I prefer arrangements to be:

- High end Mid-range
- Economical

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Pennsylvania
 900 South Arlington Ave., Suite 211A
 Harrisburg, PA 17109
www.funeralpa.org
funeralpa@gmail.com
 267-712-9695



Funeral
 Consumers
 Alliance of
 Pennsylvania

Do You Know
 Your Rights?
 We Can Help

Promoting
 informed advance planning
 for funeral and memorial
 arrangements

Funeral Advice You Can Trust

Most people know more about how to buy a car or a major appliance than funeral, and unlike those purchases, few people research their options or shop around ahead of time. In addition, most people purchase funeral goods and services when they are in the throes of grief after a loved one has died, making them uniquely vulnerable consumers. To compound the problem, the only place most people know to go for advice is the funeral home. And, while many funeral directors are compassionate, caring people, **they are also salespeople running for-profit businesses.**

We Can Help

The Funeral Consumers Alliance of Pennsylvania is a volunteer-run, not-for-profit organization that is **not associated with the funeral industry.** We provide objective support, education and advocacy. We offer tools to empower you to make informed, thoughtful decisions about funeral and memorial arrangements before they are needed. We advocate for consumer-friendly legislation and speak up on behalf of grieving families. **We are the only nonprofit organization that stands up for your rights during a difficult and potentially expensive time.**

Did You Know?

- ▶ The average cost of a funeral is over \$7,000 and that doesn't include the price of the plot, cemetery fees, headstone, obituaries, etc.
- ▶ There are more than 1,580 funeral homes in Pennsylvania, but **fewer than 500 are needed** to support the death rate. This drives up prices.
- ▶ Since few people comparison shop, most don't know that funeral home prices vary greatly, even in the same town. In Philadelphia, **funeral home charges for direct cremation range from under \$800 to over \$5,000!**
- ▶ If you go to a funeral home, the funeral director is required by law to give you a general price list (GPL) that itemizes the costs of all goods and services.
- ▶ If you don't want a viewing or a service in a funeral home, you don't have to use one that's nearby. This can mean big savings.
- ▶ Embalming is not routinely required by law. Refrigeration is almost always an alternative.
- ▶ You can keep a body at home, giving family a chance to say goodbye in a comfortable, personal place.
- ▶ If you buy a casket at a store or online, funeral home **cannot** charge you a handling or other fee.

You Benefit

A tax-deductible donation entitles you to a packet of information that includes a funeral/memorial planning form, informational pamphlets and more.



We maintain an information hotline to answer your questions about your options, selecting a funeral home, etc. **267-712-9695**



Members receive a subscription to our newsletter, invitations to lectures featuring nationally-known and local speakers, and periodic price surveys of area funeral homes and cemeteries.



Membership is transferable to affiliates across the country.



Your membership helps ensure that the FCA of PA will be there to advocate for you and our community.



Would you like to join our team?

Please reach out to us if you'd like to help people avoid overspending for a funeral.