



FUNERAL ARRANGEMENT OPTIONS IN WASHINGTON STATE

End of Life Washington endorses the use of People's Memorial Association (PMA) to help you secure the best price for your funeral arrangements. PMA is a not-for-profit funeral cooperative that is designed to protect the consumer from the unsavory practices of some funeral homes. PMA can help you with all of the following except willed body donation.

PMA can discuss with you the option of prepaying versus waiting until after death to pay. End of Life Washington does not have a position about this, but we do recommend that you plan ahead. If you do prepay, keep all the documentation in the funeral arrangement folder. If you elect not to preplan your funeral arrangements, provide documentation for what you would want and how it should be paid for.

A law passed in 2011 making it legal to designate an agent to ensure your wishes about funeral arrangements are carried out. This can be done on End of Life Washington's Advance Directive in the Advance Directive section and the Designated Agent form in the funeral arrangement section.

1. **Cremation** - If you choose this option, you should include a copy of the Disposition Authorization form. If you prepay for cremation and/or an urn, include this information in this section.
2. **Traditional Burial** - You can arrange for a coffin and burial plot ahead of time and provide the documentation in this section.
3. **Green Burial** - This is an old practice that has become "new" again. It involves the placing an un-embalmed body into a decomposable casket, which is then buried in a designated green burial cemetery. Sometimes this choice is combined with a home funeral when the body is not removed from the home until the time of the burial.
4. **Willed Body Donation** – There are several options that allow you to donate your body for the advancement of science. This is an excellent no-cost alternative to traditional or costly funeral arrangements. If you went to a college that has a medical school, you may be able to donate there, or you can use the University of Washington Willed Body Program. We recommend having a backup plan in case the university is not able to take your body at the time of death. Willed Body documentation should also be placed in this section.

Willed Body Program
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