

Six Standards When Choosing a Cremation Provider

Up-front Pricing: You would think having a General Price List would be a requirement to conduct business in the funeral industry... and it is! The Federal Trade Commission requires that consumers be given a General Price List as soon as there is any discussion about services. Ask for a General Price List!

Crematory Location: The location of the crematory should be in a facility that accepts visitors and allows for public inspection. Because of the lack of accountability in Indiana the consumer must proceed with caution. Palmer Funeral Homes owns and operates our own crematory.

Affiliations: In the funeral industry it is common for one company to own and operate several mortuary/crematory centers under different names. The reputation of each center should be of utmost importance.

Policies and Procedures: Since cremation is an irreversible process, a reputable Cremation Service Provider will have written policies and procedures to ensure that you or your loved one will be cared for properly and treated with dignity. In addition, a family member should be offered the opportunity to make a positive identification of the deceased before the cremation process begins. Log books should be available that document past procedures and the provider's adherence to policy.

Witnessed Cremation: Witnessing a portion or all of the cremation process offers closure for some people. Any family member desiring to witness this process should feel welcome to do so at the encouragement of the Cremation Service Provider.

Inspection: You have the right to inspect everything. If inspection is denied or even offered hesitantly, stay away!

Questions About the Cremation Process

What is cremation? To begin with, it is probably easier to describe what cremation isn't. Cremation is not the final disposition of the remains, nor is it some type of funeral service. Rather, it is a process of reducing the human body to bone fragments using high heat and flame.

How long does the actual cremation take? It depends on the weight of the individual. For an average size adult, cremation takes from two to three hours at normal operating temperature between 1,500 degrees F to 2,000 degrees F.

What happens after the cremation is complete? All organic bone fragments, which are very brittle, as well as non-consumed metal items are "swept" into the front of the cremation chamber and into a stainless steel cooling pan. All non-consumed items, like metal from clothing, hip joints, and bridge work, are separated from the cremated remains. This separation is accomplished through visual inspection as well as using a strong magnet for smaller and minute metallic objects. Items such as dental gold and silver are non-recoverable and are commingled in with the cremated remains. Remaining bone fragments are then processed in a machine to a consistent size and placed into a temporary or permanent urn, selected by the family.

What do the cremated remains look like? Cremated remains resemble coarse sand and are whitish to light grey in color. The cremated remains of an average size adult usually weigh between four to eight pounds.

In what kind of container are the cremated remains returned? The cremated remains are placed in a basic container; or they may be placed in the urn of your choice from our large selection of urns available.

Are all the cremated remains returned? With the exception of minute and microscopic particles, which are impossible to remove from the cremation chamber and processing machine, all of the cremated remains are given back to the family.

What can be done with the cremated remains? There are many options. Cremated remains can be buried in a cemetery lot or cremation garden, inurned in a columbarium, kept at home, or scattered on private property. Our staff will be happy to discuss these options with you and make any arrangements.