

Cremation

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Thinking about the loss of a loved one or our own mortality raises many emotional issues. This MontGuide focuses on the option of cremation and explores personal and family concerns, state and federal regulations, and costs.



MontGuide

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How many people chose cremation?

Cremation has continued to increase in acceptance in the United States since 1876 when the first crematory was built in Pennsylvania. In 2005, Montana was one of six states with a cremation rate above 50 percent (5,050 cremations out of 8,554 deaths = 59 percent). The rate in Nevada was 65 percent, Washington 64 percent, Hawaii and Oregon 63 percent, and Arizona 59 percent. In 2005 the national cremation rate was 31 percent.

Why do people choose cremation?

In a national survey cited by the Cremation Association of North America, respondents who preferred to be cremated listed the following reasons: to save money (30 percent); to save land (13 percent); personal preference (6 percent); because it is simpler and more convenient (8 percent); and body not in earth (6 percent). Other reasons that were given included concerns for the environment, cold-weather constraints, and ease of transportation to distant burial sites.

What questions do people ask about cremation?

Montana funeral directors indicate that people considering cremation often ask the following questions: Does my body have to be embalmed? Is a casket required? Should a cremation be followed by a memorial service? Would it be best for the family to have a traditional funeral and have the cremation afterwards? What is the cost for a cremation compared to other alternatives? If I have in writing my wish to be cremated, can my family disregard my request? Should I have my cremated remains scattered, buried or entombed? If so, where? Similar questions are often asked by family members or friends who are faced with decisions about cremation when the deceased had not expressed a preference prior to his or her death.

The answers to some of these questions are determined by regulations established under the authority of state and federal statutes. The answers to other questions are influenced by the personal preferences of individuals who wish to be cremated or by the people authorized to make decisions for the deceased. Finally, the services and options available from local crematories and funeral directors may be the deciding factors.

Who regulates cremations?

The Montana Board of Funeral Service has established administrative rules and standards for Cremation based on Montana statutes. The Board is under the auspices of the Montana Department of Labor and Industry. The Board licenses and governs crematories, crematory operators and technicians, as well as mortuaries, morticians, and privately owned, for-profit cemeteries.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has established trade regulation rules requiring that consumers be provided with itemized price information and other disclosures about funeral goods and services, including cremations.

After I die, who can authorize the removal of my body to the crematory?

After a death occurs in Montana, the Vital Statistics Bureau of the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) requires the submission of a form, *Authorization for Removal, Transportation and Final Disposition of a Dead Body*. The form requires the signature of one of the following: the coroner having jurisdiction; a mortician; the physician in attendance at death or the physician's designee; or a certified advanced practice registered nurse. Typically, the mortician submits the form with the appropriate signature to DPHHS. The form must be submitted no matter what method is chosen for disposition of the deceased person's body.

Where are crematories located in Montana?

In Montana, human remains may not be cremated except in a licensed crematory. As of January 2008 there were 22 licensed crematories in the state. Crematories are located in the following communities (the number within each community is provided in parentheses when there is more than one):

Billings (3)	Helena	Miles City
Bozeman (2)	Kalispell (2)	Missoula (2)
Butte	Livingston	Polson
Great Falls (3)	Malta	Whitefish
Hamilton (2)	Martinsdale	

For more information go to: www.crematorydirectory.com or www.mfda.net.

What are the costs of cremation?

The charge for cremation is somewhat less than a traditional burial. However, total costs depend on the services desired by the family and products requested from the crematory. The national average cost in 2004 of a funeral that included embalming, casket, vault and other commonly selected services was \$6,500. The national cost for a cremation (with a container provided by the crematory) ranged from \$300 to \$3,000.¹

State and federal rules require funeral homes to provide a disclosure form or a contract itemizing the expenses for professional funeral services, facilities, and equipment. Most crematories in Montana also provide similar information for cremation products and services.

People who are considering cremation can request price disclosures for services and products from the crematories in their areas or from a local funeral director. The mailing addresses and phone numbers can be obtained from the Montana Board of Funeral Service (address under Further Information, page 6) from www.crematorydirectory.com or www.mfda.net.

Does my body have to be embalmed?

Embalming is not a requirement for cremation or burial in Montana. However, embalming may be necessary under certain circumstances. If a family desires cremation after a funeral service with a private or public viewing, then the body may need to be embalmed. If the body is going to be in route more than eight hours or if the termination of common carrier transport occurs more than 36 hours after the time of death, the body must be embalmed or refrigerated. If the body is being transported privately and will not reach final destination within 48 hours after the time of death, the body must be embalmed or refrigerated.

Is a casket required?

According to the Cremation Association of North America, about 90 percent of cremations do not have a casket. The State of Montana does not require a casket for cremation but does require a durable cremation container. For health and safety considerations, however, Montana does require that a deceased person being delivered for cremation be encased in an enclosed, rigid and leak-proof container. Cremation containers are usually made of readily combustible substances such as fiberboard, pressed wood or cardboard. The casket or cremation container must be cremated with the body.

The Montana Board of Funeral Service has established standards regarding caskets and alternative containers for cremation (see definition of terms, cremation container, page 8).

Under Federal Trade Commission rules, funeral directors who offer cremations:

- may not tell you that the state or local law requires a casket for direct cremations;
- must disclose in writing your right to buy an unfinished wood box or an alternative container for direct cremation; and
- must make an unfinished wood box or other alternative container available for cremations.

Do all my family members have to sign a form to have my body cremated?

Prior to cremation, Montana law requires that the crematory have a written cremation authorization that is signed by the authorizing agent. The authorizing agent is the person legally entitled to determine the final disposition of human remains.

Montana statute (37-19-101) states that the right for another person to control the disposition of the remains of the deceased, unless other directions have been provided by the deceased, is in the following order:

- a spouse
- a majority of adult children
- a parent
- a close relative of the deceased, or
- in the absence of a person listed previously, a personal representative, a public administrator or others as designated by the Montana Board of Funeral Service.

While the Board of Funeral Service requires a majority of adult children's signatures on the authorization, some crematories in Montana require all adult children's signatures.

¹ The national cost information provided in this MontGuide includes ranges for services and products from the 2005 National Funeral Directors Association General Price List Survey. (See page 7 for Web and mailing address).

To avoid misunderstandings, people who desire to be cremated should put their requests in writing and provide copies of the written directions to family members.

Montana statutes also allow a person or an authorized individual on the person's behalf, prior to death, to complete a pre-arranged cremation authorization with a licensed funeral director or licensed mortician. The pre-need authorization must specify the ultimate disposition of the cremated remains and be signed by the authorizing agent.

What is done with the body before cremation?

All personal possessions of value, such as jewelry or mementos, should be removed by a family member or the authorizing agent before the body is taken to the crematory.

A crematory will not cremate the remains if the deceased was previously treated with nuclear medicine, because a hazardous condition could result when the body is subjected to heat.

Pacemakers must be removed by licensed morticians prior to placement of the body in the chamber because these items could damage the crematory during the process. If a crematory is not notified about the presence of pacemakers and not instructed to remove them, the authorizing agent could be held responsible for any damages caused to the crematory equipment or personnel.

Most prostheses and mechanical devices or mechanical implants are generally cremated with the body and removed before the remains are placed in an urn.

Human remains may not be cremated until 24 hours have passed after the time of death. The crematory must have a death certificate signed by the coroner and the cremation authorization form signed by the authorizing agent. Human remains delivered to a crematory may not be removed from the cremation container, as the container is cremated with the body.

What happens during cremation?

During cremation, the body is exposed to intense heat (1,400 F to 2,000 F). Cremation time varies with the size and weight of the body being cremated. A typical time span is one and one-half hours to four hours.

After the cremation is complete, the remains are allowed to cool and then are removed from the cremation chamber. All human remains are separated from non-human items. The remains are then pulverized and placed in a container selected by the authorizing agent. The cremated remains appear similar to crushed seashells or egg shells and can weigh between four and ten pounds depending upon the size of the body being cremated.

To verify the identity of the deceased, many crematories recommend that a family member personally identify the deceased in the funeral home prior to cremation.

How can my family be assured that my ashes are the ones given to them?

Montana law requires that an identifying metal disc be attached by the crematory operator or technician to each receptacle containing a body. Prior to cremation, the disc is mounted to the head end of the casket or alternate container. During the cremation process, the disc is secured on the control panel outside the chamber.

Once the cremation process is completed, the disc is placed with the cremated human remains inside a receptacle, such as an urn. The number of the identifying metal disc is also written on the outside of the receptacle containing the remains.

Which survivors receive my ashes?

Cremated human remains must be turned over to the individual specified by the authorizing agent on the cremation authorization form. If the deceased did not express a preference for the disposition of the cremated remains, the authorizing agent is responsible for making the decision.

If the authorizing agent has not specified the ultimate disposition or claimed the cremated remains after 90 days, the crematory has the authority for disposition. A record of the disposition must be made and kept by the crematory operator.

A representative of the crematory and the individual designated to receive the cremated remains must sign a delivery receipt. The receipt indicates the name of the deceased and the date, time, and place the remains were delivered. The crematory retains a copy of the receipt. The original is given to the authorizing agent. After the cremated remains are delivered to the person designated on the authorization form, they may be transported in Montana without a permit.

What can my family do with my ashes?

There is no standard arrangement for the final disposition of cremated human remains. People should make choices that provide comfort and feel right to them.

Urns. The family may choose an urn for permanent containment of the cremated human remains. Urns range in style from classic and traditional designs to contemporary square, rectangular or cylindrical shapes. Their composition may range from hardwood, stone or marble, to castings of bronze, copper or other precious metals. Urns are sold by crematories and by companies on the Web.

Some families prefer to retain the cremated remains at the family residence until weather permits the scattering or burial of the remains at a place that was significant to the deceased.

Other families prefer to place the urn in an outdoor columbarium niche that is located in a cemetery. A niche is a recessed compartment enclosed by glass to protect the engraved urn or by a metal ornamental front upon which the name and birth and death dates are placed. The cost of a columbarium niche depends on its size, location, and quality. There may be additional charges for endowment care, a flower vase, or nameplate.

Another option is a biodegradable urn. Some biodegradable urns are designed to float in water for one-to-five minutes before descending. Others are designed to break down over time when left in the open.

Urn burial. Burial of the urn in a family cemetery plot or urn garden are other alternatives. Many cemeteries have facilities ranging from simple to elaborate.

Some families prefer to hold the cremated remains for burial at a later date, so they can be placed in the casket of the spouse or mingled together with the cremated remains of a deceased spouse in a preselected urn.

Personal or keepsake memorials. When family members desire to have a remembrance, one option is jewelry, such as a pendant that holds a token amount of cremated remains. Another option is a miniature cast bronze keepsake urn that holds a small portion of the remains.

Scattering cremated human remains

The Cremation Society of North America reports that of those who prefer cremation, 59 percent said they planned to have their remains scattered. Of these, 30 percent responded that they preferred to be scattered over water, while 20 percent desired land. Regardless of the site chosen, scattering should be done in a manner that does not affect the rights of others.

Because some people may find it difficult to scatter the remains of a loved one, people who wish to have their cremated remains scattered by friends or relatives should discuss their wishes with them. In addition, those planning cremation should decide whether they want a permanent memorial to the cremated person.

Where can I have my ashes scattered?

Montana's abundance of land, rivers, and lakes provides many opportunities for the scattering or burial of cremated human remains. However, any city, county, state and federal regulations should be followed.

Privately-owned lands. Scattering cremated remains on land a person owned prior to death is legal in Montana. Families should consider whether the land could be sold in the future.

Church-owned lands. Contact the church where the cremated remains are to be scattered or buried to determine specific rules for that church.

City lands, parks, and lakes. Most Montana cities do not have specific regulations against the scattering of cremated human remains. Persons considering city-owned property to scatter cremated remains should check with the city attorney or city commission to determine if permission is required and whether forms must be completed before the scattering.

County lands, parks, and lakes. Most Montana counties do not have specific regulations against the scattering of human cremated remains on county-owned lands. People who want to scatter cremated remains on county-owned property should check with the county attorney or county commission about possible regulations.

School trust lands. The spreading of cremated human remains on state school trust lands administered by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is allowed with the permission of the Department. Typically, these lands are located in sections 16 and 36 in each township. Call the Helena office (406-444-2074) to be directed to the appropriate DNRC unit or area office. A land use license must be obtained with a \$25 minimum application fee. An additional fee will be charged by the area office that administers the land on which the cremated remains are to be scattered.

State rivers and lakes. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality does not require a permit for spreading cremated human remains in state creeks, rivers, or lakes.

State lands and parks. The Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) Commission has an interim policy that does not allow for the spreading of cremated human remains or burials within state parks unless authorized by the commission. The commission accepts petitions for exceptions to the rule in the case of family ties to the property.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 E. Sixth Ave.
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Phone: 406-444-2535 Fax: 406-444-4952
<http://fwp.mt.gov/contact>

Tribal Trust Lands. While there are no regulations under the Bureau of Indian Affairs that dictate disposal of cremated human remains, the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act dictates that the Tribes have ownership of reservation lands and may set code regulations. Non-tribal members should seek authority from the appropriate tribal council before attempting to scatter the ashes of human remains on tribal lands within any of the seven reservations in Montana.

Blackfeet Reservation
Blackfeet Nation
PO Box 850
Browning, MT 59417
Phone: 406-338-7521
Fax: 406-338-7530
www.blackfeetnation.com

Tribal Trust Lands (continued)

Crow Reservation

Crow Tribal Council
PO Box 159
Crow Agency, MT 59022
Phone: 406-638-3700
Fax: 406-638-3881
www.crowtribe.com

Flathead Reservation

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
PO Box 278
Pablo, MT 59855
Phone: 406-675-2700
Fax: 406-675-2806
www.cskt.org

Fort Belknap

Ft. Belknap Community Council
RR1, Box 66
Harlem, MT 59526
Phone: 406-353-2205
Fax: 406-353-2797
www.ftbelknap-nsn.gov

Fort Peck

Ft. Peck Tribal Executive Board
PO Box 1027
Poplar, MT 59255
Phone: 406-768-5155
Fax: 406-768-5478
www.fortpecktribes.org

Northern Cheyenne

Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council
PO Box 128
Lame Deer, MT 59043
Phone: 406-477-6284
Fax: 406-477-6210
www.cheyennenation.com

Rocky Boy's Reservation

Chippewa Cree Tribal Council
RR 1, Box 544
Box Elder, MT 59521
Phone: 406-395-4478
Fax: 406-395-4497
www.rockyboy.org

Bureau of Land Management lands. There are no federal permits necessary for the scattering of cremated remains on Bureau of Land Management lands unless the process becomes a commercial enterprise.

Federal waters. The scattering or burial of cremated remains at sea must take place at least three nautical miles from land. A burial/scatter at sea notification form must be filed within 30 days after the scattering with the appropriate Environmental Protection Agency Regional Office. The form is available at: www.epa.gov. The form can also be obtained by writing:

Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460
Phone: 202-260-2090

National cemeteries. Veterans are eligible to be buried in a national cemetery. In addition, the spouses and dependent children of honorably discharged veterans may be buried in one of the 125 national cemeteries. Cremated remains may be interred in an in-ground grave site, placed in a garden niche, or placed in a columbarium. Also, the remains may be scattered in specifically designated cremation gardens.

A listing of the cemeteries maintained by the Department of Veterans Affairs is available on the web at www.cem.va.gov. The list is also available from the VA office in Montana:

VA Medical and Regional Office Center
PO Box 188
Fort Harrison, MT 59636
Phone: 1-800-827-1000

National Forests. There are no rules or regulations within the Forest Service authorizing the scattering or interment of cremated human remains on National Forest System lands. However, some states (California) regulate or prohibit the scattering of ashes.

National Parks. Each national park has its own conditions for granting permission to scatter cremated remains. People who want to scatter human remains in a national park should contact the superintendent of the park where the deceased requested to be scattered. A list of national parks is available on the web at: www.nps.gov/findapark. The list is also available from:

National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240
Phone: 202-208-6843

Yellowstone National Park. A special use permit for \$25 must be obtained to scatter cremated human remains in Yellowstone National Park. Contact the Yellowstone Visitor Services Office at 307-344-2107 or write :

Yellowstone Visitor Services Office
PO Box 168,
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190-0168.
Email: Yell_visitor_services@nps.gov.

Glacier National Park. Cremated human remains may be dispersed only in undeveloped areas in Glacier National Park. The remains cannot be scattered near any developed locations such as a road, trail, building, parking lot, boat ramp, swimming beach, campground, lake, and so on. The cremated remains must be scattered and not deposited in any type of container. No marker or memorial of any type may be placed at the site. Glacier Park provides a form letter requesting that the Special Use Permit Office (406-888-7825) be notified of the exact area where the cremated human remains were dispersed and the day and time the scattering took place.

Special Park Uses
Glacier National Park
P.O. Box 128
West Glacier, MT 59936

Air. The Federal Aviation Administration regulates the disposal of cremated human remains in the air. As long as there is no hazard to persons or property, scattering of cremated human remains is permitted in the skyways.

Can I have my ashes shipped to another town or state?

Cremated human remains may be mailed. If the cremated remains are to be shipped out-of-state, a copy of the cremation authorization form should be included in the shipment.

The remains must be packed in a sift-proof container or other type of container that is sealed in a durable outer container. Crematories have shipping containers for human remains.

The U.S. Postal Service requires that the package be sent as registered mail with return receipt services. Cremated remains cannot be sent by overnight express mail, regular mail, or certified mail. United Parcel Service (UPS) and Federal Express prohibit the shipping of cremated human remains.

Summary

People who desire cremation should place their requests in writing and provide copies of the written instructions with relatives. Price disclosures for services and products for cremation can be obtained from Montana crematories and funeral directors. Contact the Montana Board of Funeral Service for mailing addresses and phone numbers.

Regardless of whether cremation is the method of final disposition chosen, one member of the Montana Funeral Directors Association suggests that:

"When planning to honor and memorialize a person who has died, the family should plan a funeral, memorial, celebration of life or gathering that best suits their religious beliefs, traditions, lifestyle and budget."

Acknowledgment

This MontGuide has been reviewed by representatives from the following agencies and professional organizations:

- Montana Board of Funeral Service
- Montana Funeral Directors Association
- Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services
- Montana Department of Environmental Quality
- Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

References

Montana Codes Annotated 2001 37-19-705 (MCA 37-19-101 through 37-19-202; MCA 35-21-802 through 35-21-812)

1999 Study of American Attitudes Towards Ritualization & Memorialization, Part 1. The Cremationist of North America, Vol 36. No. 1, 2000.

1999 Study of American Attitudes Towards Ritualization & Memorialization, Part 2. The Cremationist of North America, Vol 36. No. 2, 2000.

Further Information

You can obtain additional information about cremations and the options available from the following state and federal government agencies, businesses and professional groups:

Montana

Montana Board of Funeral Service
301 South Park, 4th Floor
PO Box 200513
Helena, MT 59620-0513
Phone: 406-841-2393 Fax: 406-841-2305
Email: dlibsdfnr@mt.gov
www.mt.gov/dli/fnr

– The Montana Board of Funeral Service has produced a brochure, *Consumer Information About Funerals*, that can be obtained from the address above.

Montana Funeral Directors Association (MFDA)
PO Box 4267
Helena, MT 59604-4267
Phone: 406-449-7244 Fax: 406-443-0979
Email: mfga@sy-key.com
www.mfga.net

– The MFDA provides programs, services, and resources to help members care for the families they serve. The association is also available as a resource to the public.

National

AARP Fulfillment
601 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20049
Phone: 1-888-687-2277
www.aarp.org

– AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to helping older Americans achieve lives of independence, dignity and purpose. There is information available free by writing the above address or at www.aarp.org. Click on [Policy & Research] at the bottom of the page. Then in the search engine type "Preneed Funeral and Burial Agreements and Funeral Arrangements."

Cremation Association of North America (CANA)
401 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611
Phone: 312-245-1077 Fax: 312-321-4098
Email: CANA@smithbuklin.com
www.cremationassociation.org

– CANA is an association of crematories, cemeteries and funeral homes that offer cremation.

Funeral Consumers Alliance (FCA)
33 Patchen Road
South Burlington, VT 05403
Phone: 1-800-765-0107
Email: fca@funerals.org
www.funerals.org

– FCA is a nonprofit, educational organization that supports increased funeral consumer protection and, is affiliated with the Funeral and Memorial Society of America (FAMSA).

Funeral Service Educational Foundation (FSEF)
13625 Bishop's Drive
Brookfield, WI 53005
Phone: 1-877-402-5900
Email: nfda@nfda.org
www.fsef.org

– FSEF is a nonprofit foundation dedicated to advancing professionalism in funeral service and to enhancing public knowledge and understanding through education and research. Cremation statistics and educational brochures on making funeral arrangements are available.

International Cemetery Cremation and Funeral Association (ICFA)
107 Carpenter Drive, Suite 100
Sterling, VA 20164
Phone: 1-800-645-7700 Fax: 703-391-8416
www.icfa.org

– ICFA is a nonprofit association of cemeteries, funeral homes, crematories and monument retailers that offers informal mediation of consumer complaints through its Cemetery Consumer Service Council. There is an informative section on cremation on the Web site.

National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA)
13625 Bishop's Drive
Brookfield, WI 53005
Phone: 1-800-228-6332 Fax: 262-789-6977
Email: nfda@nfda.org
www.nfda.org

– NFDA has cremation statistics on its Web site as well as information on funeral pricing and tips on prepaying funerals.

Selected Independent Funeral Homes (SIFH)
500 Lake Cook Road, Suite 205
Deerfield, IL 60015
Phone: 1-800-323-4219
Email: info@selectedfuneralhomes.org
www.selectedfuneralhomes.org

– SIFH is a national association of funeral firms that have agreed to comply with its Code of Good Funeral Practice. The Web site contains information about cremation under funeral options.

Definitions of Terms in the Cremation Industry

At-need arrangements – arrangements made by an authorized person on behalf of a deceased person.

Authorizing agent – the person legally entitled to order the final disposition of human remains, including burial, cremation, entombment, donation to medical science, or other means. The order of preference for an authorizing agent is (unless prior directions were provided by the decedent):

- a spouse;
- a majority of adult children;
- a parent;
- a close relative of the deceased; or,
- in the absence of a person listed above, a personal representative, or a public administrator.

Closed container – a container in which cremated remains can be placed and enclosed in a manner that prevents leakage or spillage of cremated remains or entrance of foreign material.

Columbarium – structure with niches for placement of cremated remains in urns or other approved containers. It may be outdoors or part of a mausoleum or mortuary.

Cremains – cremated human remains.

Cremated remains – human remains recovered after the completion of the cremation, including pulverization that leaves only bone fragments reduced to unidentifiable dimensions.

Cremation – technical process, using heat, that reduces human remains to bone fragments. The reduction takes place through heat and evaporation.

Cremation chamber – enclosed space within which the cremation process takes place. Cremation chambers of crematoriums licensed by the Montana Board of Funeral Service must be used exclusively for the cremation of human remains.

Cremation container – the container in which the human remains are placed in the cremation chamber for a cremation. A cremation container must meet substantially all of the following standards:

- be able to be closed to provide a complete covering for the human remains;
- be composed of readily combustible materials suitable for cremation;
- be resistant to leakage or spillage;
- be rigid enough for handling with ease; and
- be able to provide protection for the health and safety of crematory personnel.

Cremation vault – container for an urn made of concrete, metal, fiberglass, or durable plastic.

Crematory – building or portion of a building that houses the cremation chamber and the holding facility.

Crematory operator – person in charge of the licensed crematory facility.

Crematory technician – employee of a crematory facility who is trained to perform cremations and is licensed by the Montana Board of Funeral Service.

Holding facility – area within or adjacent to the crematory facility designated for the retention of human remains prior to cremation that must:

- comply with any applicable public health law;
- preserve the dignity of the human remains;
- recognize the health, safety, and integrity of the crematory operator and crematory personnel; and
- be secure from access by anyone other than authorized personnel.

Interment – lawful disposition of cremated remains or human remains.

Mausoleum – community-type room or space in a building or structure used or intended to be used for the interment of human remains in crypts or niches.

Mausoleum-columbarium – building or structure containing both a mausoleum and a columbarium.

Niche – space in a columbarium, mausoleum, or niche wall used for interment of cremated remains or human remains of one or more deceased persons.

Preneed authorization – arrangement made prior to the death of the person. A person can make a preneed arrangement with a licensed funeral director or licensed mortician. A person can also authorize another individual to make preneed arrangements on his/her behalf.

Temporary container – receptacle for cremated remains that is usually made of cardboard, plastic film, or similar material designed to hold the remains until an urn or other permanent container is acquired.

Urn – receptacle designed to encase human cremated remains.

Urn garden – specially designed area in a cemetery for the burial of urns. Some gardens offer individual urn burial plots that will accommodate a marker. Others offer unmarked areas for interment of the urn, with adjacent walls or sculptures for memorial plaques.



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