

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Maine	P. O. Box 622 Brunswick, Maine 04011	tel. 207-558-2246
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		www.fcamaaine.net

a non-profit all volunteer educational organization dedicated to helping the public make informed decisions about after-death arrangements that are dignified, meaningful, and affordable.

Funeral General Price List Survey 2016 Summary

Objective

The Funeral Consumers Alliance of Maine (FCA Maine) periodically conducts a survey of products and services offered by funeral homes and crematories. The objective is gathering price data for services required by the federal law known as the Funeral Rule. We hope this information helps consumers understand products and services available as they compare prices in the state of Maine.

Methodology

In 2016, FCA Maine volunteers collected General Price Lists (GPLs) from funeral homes and crematories in Maine, as we have done in the past. GPLs were gathered by the following methods: visiting the place of business in person to ask for GPL, telephoning and asking for a GPL to be mailed or emailed, emailing the place of business and by gathering those GPLs available on business websites. We attempted to reach all funeral service providers in Maine; we collected GPLs from over 100 funeral homes and crematories. In July 2016, FCA Maine sent a letter to the Maine Funeral Directors Association in Gardiner, Maine explaining the price survey process and asking them to let their membership know about the survey and the need for GPLs. In August, letters were sent to providers we had not yet heard from. We referred to the list of licensed funeral companies posted on the State of Maine Professional & Financial Regulation agency website, lists from I'm Sorry to Hear (an internet listing) and FCA Maine's 2011 survey. . If by December 31, 2016 we had no response from the request for GPL, those providers are listed as "did not respond".

It is important to note that price changes can occur at any time. The prices quoted in this survey were in effect in 2016, and the date of effectiveness of each GPL is noted in the survey results.

The price survey results document prices, the cost of specific itemized services as listed on the General Price List. We have no way of valuing the intangible relationship which exists between the funeral home and/or crematory and the community it serves.

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Explanation of Spread Sheet Columns in the survey

The columns of prices in the survey are items listed in the federal law The Funeral Rule. Other products and services offered by funeral homes and crematories can be determined by direct contact with the provider. If a column is blank it means that either the provider does not list that item, or we were unable to determine, with reasonable certainty, what the price for that service would be.

FCA Maine is not the offerer of these services. FCA Maine is a non-profit non-sectarian all volunteer organization dedicated to providing education to the public about the many options available in planning disposition of bodily remains. We are also advocates for consumer choice at end-of-life, monitoring pertinent legislation and regulatory activities.

Explanation of Terms on Spread Sheet Columns

- **Basic Services of Funeral Director and staff:** The basic services fee (the so-called “non-declinable fee”) includes services that are common to all funerals, regardless of the specific arrangement. These include funeral planning, securing the necessary permits and copies of death certificates, preparing the notices, sheltering the remains, and coordinating the arrangements with the cemetery, crematory or other third parties as well as a share of overhead costs.
- **Transfer of the Body to the Funeral Home:** Transfer of remains from the place of death to funeral home (usually within a 25-mile radius). Additional distance is usually charged at a per mile rate.
- **Embalming:** Except in certain circumstances embalming is not required by law. Embalming may be necessary if you select certain funeral arrangements, such as a funeral with a viewing. If embalming is not necessary, you have the right to choose an arrangement that does not require you to pay for it, such as direct cremation, immediate burial or green burial.
- **Use of Facilities and Staff for Visitation/ Viewing at the Funeral Home:** The charge for the use of staff and facilities for either viewing or visitation at the funeral home.
- **Use of Facilities and Staff for Funeral Ceremony at the Funeral Home:** Use of the funeral home facilities and staff for a service commemorating a deceased person with the body present.

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- **Use of Facilities and Staff for Memorial Service at the Funeral Home:** Use of funeral home facilities and staff for a ceremony commemorating a deceased person without the body present.
- **Use of Equipment and Staff for Graveside Service:** A graveside service commemorates a deceased person and is held at a cemetery before burial.
- **Hearse:** A charge for the use of the funeral coach (hearse), usually within a 25-mile radius of the funeral home. Additional distance is usually charged at a per mile rate.
- **Limousine:** Same as above (hearse) except the vehicle is a limousine.
- **Forwarding Remains to Another Funeral Home:** Usually includes use of preparation room, Basic Services of the funeral director and staff, embalming, transfer of remains, transportation to or from local airport or other place of shipment within a 25-mile radius, service vehicle and obtaining necessary authorizations. This charge applies within the continental US only.
- **Receiving Remains from Another Funeral Home:** Usually includes Basic Services of the funeral director and staff, transportation of remains to cemetery or crematory, transportation to or from local airport or other place of shipment within a 25-mile radius, service vehicle and obtaining necessary authorizations.
- **Direct Cremation:** Disposing of remains by cremation without having a formal viewing, visitation, or ceremony with the body present.
- **Crematory Fee:** a fee charged for cremation. Sometimes the price listed for Direct Cremation includes the crematory fee, and sometimes it does not, in which case it will be an additional fee for the consumer.
- **Immediate Burial:** disposing of remains by burial without having a formal viewing, visitation, or ceremony with the body present before the graveside service.
- **Caskets:** a rigid container usually made of wood or metal, designed to hold bodily remains.
- **Outer Burial Containers:** a structure that partially or completely surrounds a casket in a grave. For example, some outer burial container are called vaults or grave liners.

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Funeral Shopping Tips

From the Federal Trade Commission (for more information, visit the FTC website)

- Compare prices from at least two funeral homes.
- Ask for a General Price List. Federal law requires funeral homes to give you written itemized price lists for products and services.
- Resist pressure to buy goods and services you don't really want or need.
- Avoid emotional overspending. It's not necessary to have the fanciest casket or the most elaborate funeral to properly honor a loved one.
- Recognize your rights.
- Apply the same smart shopping techniques you use for other major purchases.
- Shop in Advance.

The FTC Funeral Rule (more information available FTC website www.ftc.gov)

The FTC enforces the Funeral Rule, which makes it possible for you to choose only the goods and services you want or need and pay only for those you select.

The Rule allows you to compare prices among funeral homes. In brief, the Funeral Rule gives you the right to:

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| Buy only the funeral goods and services you want | Make funeral arrangements without embalming (unless legally required) |
| Get price information by telephone | Get a written itemized price list when you visit a funeral home, a General Price List (GPL) to keep. |
| See a written price list for caskets before you see actual caskets | See a written price list for outer burial containers |
| Receive a written statement after you decide what you want, and before you pay | Use an "alternative container" instead of a casket for cremation |
| Provide the funeral home with a casket or urn you purchase elsewhere | |

	Basic Service of Funeral Director	Transfer of Body to Funeral Home	Embalming	Other Preparation of the Body	Use of Equipment and Staff at Funeral Home	Use of Equipment and Staff at Gravesite	Hearse	Forwarding Remains to Another Funeral Home	Receiving Remains from Another Funeral Home		Immediate Burial	Caskets	Other Burial Containers
Hall Casco	1550	295	495	195	375	295	295					895-6995	1050-2800
Hobbs (2 sites) Scarborough. South Portland	2295	350	625	225	525	375	325	3100	3095	Fee & 2480-6100	3175-7400	155-20000	1025-6100
Jones-Rich-Hutchins Portland	3745	595	895	395	595	595	395	4875	3780	4300-13095	4100-13395	795-9295	1495-12700
Funeral Alternatives (2 sites) Brunswick. Yarmouth	1350	250	375	150	375	375	225	2375	1975	1250-5440	4175-5600	995-5560	1225-1470
Lindquist Yarmouth	3745	695	995	450	595	595	495	5175	3980	4605-13400	4450-13745	795-9295	1495-12700
Portland Jewish Portland	2600	225			200	495	235	1850	1800				
Stetson's Brunswick	1860	360	610	320	495-695	695	490	4410	3130	3110-3237	3450-4950		
Wilson Gray	1595	495	225	150	495	395	395	1595	875	1185-1990	1595	375-3995	895-1445
Low-High Price	1350-3745	225-695	225-995	150-450	200-895	295-695	225-495	1595-5175	875-3980	995-13400	1595-17595	375-33950	895-12700
FRANKLIN													
Dan & Scott's Skowhegan	1595	495	425	225	345-375	325	345	2475	2175	945-985	2395-2995	327-3450	956-4270
Wiles (2 sites) Farmington Jay	1995	475	695	265	425	425	325	2495	1995	Fee & 1195-9995	3955-12055	645-8995	1495-4895
Low-High Price													
HANCOCK													
Jordan-Fernald (3 sites) Blue Hill Ellsworth Mount Desert	1995	295	625	125	540-565	495	300	2890	1445	2640-15890	2715-18410	95-16275	1185-5025
Mitchell-Tweedle Bucksport	1595	250	500	300	500	350	250	1150	750		1445-4560	750-8175	995-2820
Low_High Price													
KENNEBEC													
Funeral Alternatives Augusta	1350	250	375	150	375	375	225	2375	1975	1250-5440	4175-5600	995-5560	1225-1470
Gallant Waterville	1850	395	775	200	485		425			3325	2940	748-26600	1080-1880
Knowlton (2 sites) Augusta Winthrop	1870	375	595	175	495	295	425	2870	1420	Fee & 2195-4055	2270-3395	1125-14995	1195-4075

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WASHINGTON													
Clay Danforth													
Mays Eastport													
McClure Machias													
YORK													
Chad E. Poltras Buxton	1695	375	650	150	400	400	375	2720	2595	Fee & 895-1695	2995-3490	695-8995	985-6500
Cote Saco	1695	325	595	150	450	175	295	1795	1695	1695	1695	895-15500	800-4995
Dennett, Craig & Pate Saco	1995	375	750	95	395	395	395	1659	1085	2240-2365	1315-2965	575-11500	795-1550
Hope Biddeford	1675	375	475	125	595	275	295	1400	2345	1400-3005	2350-2575	895-16500	825-14400
J. S. Pelkey Kittery	1895	350	795	200	500-650	295	325	2100	1295	Fee & 2195-2330	2745-3540	795-12000	995-8900
Johnson North Berwick	1500	275	350	200	250-500	400	275			Fee & 1785-2500	2650	1100-13600	840-3650
Lucas & Eaton York	2295	375	575	250	475-550	425	375			Fee & 2350-2895		195-6895	995-9995
McIntire-McCooey South Berwick	1995	295	795	100	495	495	325	2795	1595	2195-2545	3295-4245	850-35850	1070-13530
Old Orchard Beach Old Orchard Beach	1595	300	630	165	660	360	300	2220	1495	1095-1550	1095-1195	235 and up	235 and up
Watson, Neal & York Cornish	1685	195	645	150	400	400	300	1790	995	Fee & 1495	995	595 and up	995 and up
Low_High Price							275-395	1400-2795	995-2595	895-3005	995-4245	195-35850	235-14400