

Brown Funeral Home and Crematory

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Lecanto, Florida 34461

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www.brownfuneralhome.com



Funeral Service Information and Planning Guide



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Our Mission

Our desire at **Brown Funeral Home** is to provide you with quality and service that you won't find anywhere else. Our goal is simple: To serve Citrus County and surrounding areas with quality and integrity that goes far beyond what is expected. Allow ***Our Family*** to assist ***Your Family*** in the preparation of the difficult decisions you are about to encounter.

About Us...



Richard T. Brown, LFD, Samantha N. Brown, LFD, Igrayne L. Bruce, (LFD-2007), Rhiannon E. Brown.

Richard Brown, owner and Funeral Director in Charge, graduated from Gupton Jones College of Mortuary Science, Atlanta, Georgia, in 1982. His wife, Samantha Brown, graduated from St. Petersburg College in 1999 with a degree in Funeral Service. Their daughter, Igrayne Bruce, is expected to attain her degree in Funeral Service in 2006, and become fully licensed after one year internship. The Brown's have two other children, Rhiannon and Ricky, they plan to join the family business as well.

In 1990, Richard and Samantha were proud to open Brown Funeral Home. In 2001, they celebrated the opening of their crematory, allowing on-site cremation. Thus providing complete funeral care for Citrus county and surrounding areas.

May 2006 will be the Sixteenth anniversary of the opening of Brown Funeral Home. "We have enjoyed serving our community as funeral service professionals but also as proud members of the community".

Cremation

Cremation is a process for preparing a body for its final disposition. Through cremation the body is reduced to small skeletal fragments by intense heat (1675-1800 degrees Fahrenheit).

A cremation furnace is not designed to cremate more than one body at a time, and to do so is against the law in all 50 states and many other nations. Florida state law also requires, medical examiner's approval and a 48 hour holding period.



The chamber where the body is placed is called the retort. It is lined with special bricks to help retain the heat.

These bricks require replacement after about five years because of continual expansion and contraction due to temperature cycling.

When you select cremation it is important to note that there are many other considerations to take into account. Cremation is only a process, not necessarily a replacement for the traditional funeral. In fact, many families choose to have viewing and funeral service only to be concluded with cremation. Many options are available to meet all wishes.



Above: Crematorium heating in preparation for a cremation.

Side: Bone fragments remaining after cremation process prior to crushing operation.

Religious Views on Cremation

The Roman Catholic Church

For most of its history, the Roman Catholic Church had a ban in place against cremation. It was seen as the most sacrilegious act towards the Christians and their God, not simply blaspheming, but physically declaring a disbelief in the Resurrection. In 1963 the Pope lifted the ban on cremation, and in 1966 allowed Catholic priests to officiate at cremation ceremonies. The church still officially prefers the traditional burial of the deceased. However cremation is now permitted as long as it is not done to express a refusal to believe in the resurrection of the body. Until 1997, church regulations stipulated that cremation was to take place after the funeral service had taken place.

Eastern Orthodox Church

The Eastern Orthodox Church forbids cremation. Exceptions are made for circumstances where it may not be avoided (when civil authority demands it, or epidemics) or if it may be sought for good cause, but when a cremation is willfully chosen for no good cause by the one who is deceased, he or she is not permitted a funeral in the church and may also be permanently excluded from liturgical prayers for the departed. In Orthodoxy, cremation is a rejection of the dogma of the general resurrection, and as such is viewed harshly.

Protestant Churches

The Protestant churches approved cremation earlier than Catholic, the rationale being "God can resurrect a bowl of ashes just as conveniently as he can resurrect a bowl of dust".

Judaism

Judaism has traditionally disapproved cremation, as it was the traditional means of disposing the dead in the neighboring Bronze Age Pagan Semitic cultures, but also disapproved preservation of the dead by means of embalming and mummifying, as the Egyptians did. During the 19th and early 20th centuries, as the Jewish cemeteries in many European towns had become crowded and were running out of space, cremation became an approved means of burial amongst the Liberal Jews.

Zoroastrianism

Zoroastrians have traditionally prohibited cremation, on the grounds of the sacred nature of fire. They consider fire would become contaminated if it is used to dispose of corpses. Instead they have left their dead on specific Towers of Silence, where birds of prey are allowed to devour their flesh; the bones are then entombed in the ossuary inside the tower. Modern hygiene regulations prohibit this means of body disposal in many countries.

Anatomical Donation

The donor or the surviving relatives must make arrangements with a local funeral home, crematory or mortuary and pay for:

1. Preliminary embalming
2. Transportation of the body to the Anatomical Board located at the University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

The Anatomical Board receives no financial support from the State and regrets the necessity of requiring that you pay for the above services.

Bodies cannot be accepted for donation if:

1. An autopsy has been performed
2. Death was caused by a crushing injury
3. The individual had sepsis, extreme obesity, or a highly contagious disease (such as hepatitis, AIDS)

There is no age limit on donated bodies. It is important for the family to recognize that the Anatomical Board cannot issue reports regarding the cause of death or any findings. If a family wishes to receive such information, they should have an autopsy performed by a qualified pathologist.



Information provided by the:

Anatomical Board of the State of Florida

www.med.ufl.edu/anatbd

Southeast Tissue Alliance

Tissue donation is one of the most precious gifts one person can give another. Donor families often find great comfort in knowing that their gift is able to enhance the lives of others. The generous families who have donated the organs and tissues of their loved ones have helped enhance countless lives.

RESEARCH

Research using donated tissues helps save and enhance lives. Tissues recovered for research and education can be recovered from donors with Alzheimer's, cancer, liver disease, congestive heart failure and many other conditions that would not ordinarily be suitable for transplant use. These donated tissues have many potential uses to help others. This includes developing and testing new methods of transplantation to improve surgical outcomes, reduce pain and shorten recovery times, or by helping researchers find new drugs and methods to treat serious diseases such as cancer.

www.donorcare.org

Florida Lions

Eye Bank

The Florida Lions Eye Bank was established in 1962 as a non-profit organization to provide donor eye tissue to ophthalmologists for corneal transplantation. Since then, nearly 40,000 people have received this precious Gift of Sight. The Eye Bank also maintains a highly regarded pathology laboratory for studying eye disease and also provides resources and tissue for teaching and research.



**Lions Clubs
International**

www.fleb.org

Veterans Benefits



Florida National Cemetery:

Burial in the Florida National Cemetery is an honor reserved for Armed Forces veterans discharged under other than dishonorable conditions. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs maintains this tradition on behalf of a grateful nation. Also entitled to burial are the veterans spouse and eligible dependent children.

Benefits associated with interment in the national cemetery are provided at no charge. These benefits include:

- Furnishing a grave space.
- Opening and closing the grave.
- Providing the grave and perpetual care.
- Supplying an upright headstone for casketed burial and a flat headstone for cremation burial.

Military Funeral Honors:

The core elements of the funeral honors ceremony which will be conducted upon request are as follows:

- Flag folding
- Flag presentation
- Taps

Eligibility includes active duty and other U.S. veterans who served at least one term of enlistment and separated under conditions other than dishonorable.

www.cem.va.gov/nchp/florida.htm

Social Security Benefits



Lump Sum Death Benefit:

This benefit is in the amount of \$255. It is only payable to the surviving spouse or one dependent child. If neither of these relations exist, the benefit is not paid.

Survivor Benefits:

This will be determined by the Social Security Administration based upon past earning, length of time married, etc.

www.socialsecurity.gov

Life is eternal; and love is immortal; and death is only a horizon; and a horizon is nothing save the limit of our sight.

-Rossiter Worthington Raymond

After the Funeral

After the funeral there will still be a number of things to do. Most of them can be delayed for a reasonable length of time, until you are ready.

Thank-You Notes

As soon as possible, write notes to those who provided special help, brought food, sent flowers or made contributions to designated charities. While you may also wish to acknowledge letters of sympathy, it is not necessary to answer notes or cards. There will be a description of the floral tribute on the back of the sender's card allowing you to refer to the flowers specifically. Acknowledgement cards are available at your funeral home and may be included in the arrangement package you purchased.

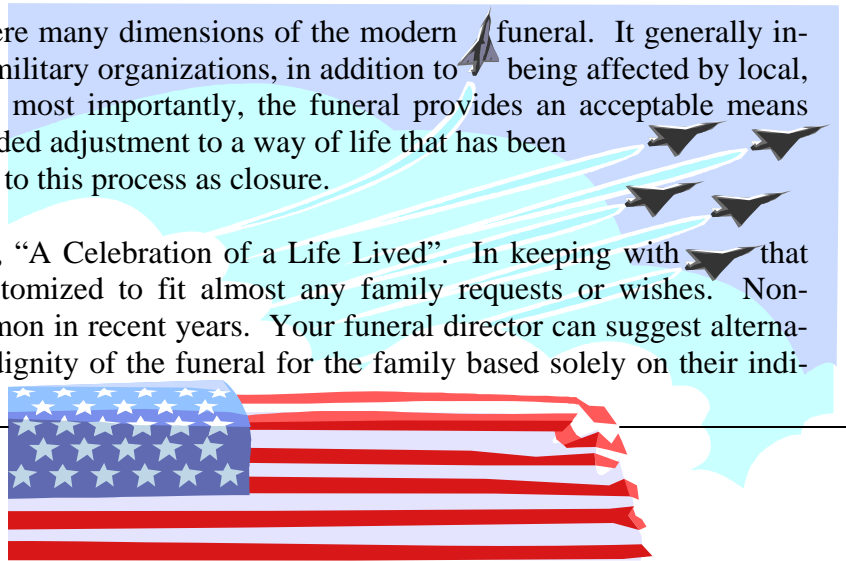
Funeral and Memorial Services

By way of definition, a funeral service is a ceremony honoring the dead in which the deceased body is present. A memorial service is also a ceremony to honor the dead however cremated remains may or may not be present. However, for the purposes of this informational guide, the term memorial service will be synonymous with funeral service.

Today's funeral services have evolved through the years as a result of our instinctive wish to honor our dead. At different periods in history, in different cultures, funeral customs have developed in characteristic ways. But always, the funeral serves many purposes. It symbolizes the beliefs of the society, its hopes, its ideals, its religious concepts.

Just as there is complexity in life, so are there many dimensions of the modern funeral. It generally involves religious, social, fraternal, civic and military organizations, in addition to being affected by local, state and federal laws and regulations. But most importantly, the funeral provides an acceptable means through which the bereaved can find the needed adjustment to a way of life that has been abruptly changed. Many people today refer to this process as closure.

The funeral service has been referred to as, "A Celebration of a Life Lived". In keeping with that philosophy the modern service can be customized to fit almost any family requests or wishes. Non-traditional services have become more common in recent years. Your funeral director can suggest alternatives that maintain the positive values and dignity of the funeral for the family based solely on their individual preferences.



Planning Ahead

Funeral pre-arrangement has many benefits. Including:

- Peace of mind. You know that every thing is taken care of and your last wishes will be met.
- Removing the burden from your loved ones. They will never wonder, "Did I do the right thing?" or "Did I spend too much or too little?"
- Freezing the ever increasing cost of funeral services and merchandise. *

There are three primary ways a person may pay ahead for the financial demands of a funeral:

- **Funeral Trust:** This method allows for a flexible payment schedule to adapt to most peoples needs, there are no finance charges and the policy is 100% refundable, including merchandise. All services and merchandise costs are guaranteed. *
- **Funeral Insurance:** Payment schedule is not as flexible as a trust, finance charges are included in each payment, cancellation policies vary as

- many do not refund merchandise purchases. All services and merchandise costs are guaranteed. *
- **Burial Insurance** (not purchased through a funeral home): Provides funds for final expenses, however funeral expenses are not guaranteed to remain the same.

*Cash-advance costs are never guaranteed in any pre-arrangement plan. Cash-advance items are any item or service obtained from a vendor outside the funeral home. Such as: floral arrangements, opening and closing of the grave, death certificates and honorariums for organists, clergy, military honors organizations, etc. To plan for these expenses a current dollar amount is estimated and included in the payment program. However, it is important to remember these items may increase in cost over the years to come.

If you have any questions or would care to discuss any information provided in this guide, please contact us at, 352-795-0111. Please visit our website at, www.brownfuneralhome.com



Personal Worksheet:
Vital Statistics

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: _____ Race: _____

Address: _____

Place of Birth (City & State): _____

Father's Name: _____

Father's Place of Birth: _____

Mother's Maiden Name: _____

Mother's Place of Birth: _____

Marital Status: _____

Spouse (if female, maiden name): _____

Usual Occupation: _____

Type of Industry: _____

Social Security Number: _____ Education: _____

Veteran (yes/no): _____ Branch of Service & Rank: _____

Personal Representative (name, address & phone): _____



Personal Worksheet:
Obituary Information

Length of Time in This Area: _____

Moved Here From: _____

Church Affiliation: _____

Clubs, Organizations, Other Memberships and Achievements: _____

Preceded in Death By: _____

Survivors (list name, city and state where they currently live):

Spouse: _____ Parents: _____

Children: _____

Siblings: _____

Grandchildren #: _____ Great Grandchildren #: _____ Great-Great-Grandchildren #: _____

Others: _____



**Personal Worksheet:
Funeral / Memorial Planner**

Funeral Services

Location (specify church name or funeral home chapel): _____

Clergy: _____

Special Music: _____

Organist/Soloist: _____ Visitation (# of days): _____

Pallbearers: _____

Donation in Lieu of Flowers: _____

Final Disposition

Burial: _____ Entombment: _____ Burial at Sea: _____ Anatomical Donation: _____ Cremation: _____

Name of Cemetery or Body of Water: _____

Location: _____

Lot, Section, Block and Grave #: _____

Disposition of Cremated Remains: Scattered at Sea: _____ Buried: _____ Given to: _____

Name of Newspapers for Obituary: _____

Shipping Information (name, address and phone of receiving funeral home): _____
