

Funeral Arrangements & Options

Area Funeral Homes

Both of these conventional funeral homes offer a range of services that include pre-planning; memorial, funeral and/or graveside services; vaults, urns, and caskets; and assistance with applying for veterans' and/or social security benefits, writing obituaries, handling insurances, completing required legal documentation, etc.

Lary Funeral Home

Locations in Dover-Foxcroft, Milo, Guilford, and Greenville

Office:

62 Summer Street, Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426

564-3391

<http://www.laryfuneralhome.com/>

Crosby and Neal Funeral Homes and Cremation Service

Locations in Dexter, Corinna, and Newport

Toll-Free: 800-649-1124 in state

<http://www.crosbyneal.com/>

Direct Cremation Services

Cremation Basics

PO BOX 914

Bangor, Maine 04401

207-989-9596

1-800-943-9295

www.cremationbasics.com

Direct Cremation of Maine

Based in Belfast, ME and serving the entire state

182 Waldo Avenue, Belfast, ME 04915

1-800-479-1433

www.directcremationofmaine.com

Downeast Direct Cremation, LLC

Serving Penobscot, Hancock, Piscataquis & Washington Counties

254 Washington Street

Bangor, Maine 04401

207-CALL-DDC (207-225-5332)

www.downeastdirectcremation.com

Memorial Alternatives

Affiliated with Brookings-Smith Family Services

205 Center Street, Bangor, ME

945-4788

www.memorial-alternatives.com

Home Funerals/Burials

Last Things – Alternatives at the End of Life

Based in Maine, Last Things is a collaborative of people who educate about home funerals and green burials and other alternatives to conventional funerals. Their website has lots of information and a fantastic list of resources with many links. They also offer:

- Individual consultation
- Small group workshops
- Introductory presentations
- Resource sharing

<http://www.lastthings.net/>

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Maine (FCAM)

A non-profit, all volunteer, educational organization based in Brunswick, ME and dedicated to helping members make informed decisions about after-death arrangements that are dignified, meaningful, and affordable. Information, resources, printed materials/booklets/pamphlets are available at the FCAM website or by calling or emailing.

1-800-218-9885 • info@fcamaine.net

<http://www.fcamaine.net/#>

Green Burials

Green Burial Sites in Maine:

- Cedar Brook Burial Ground, Limington, Maine
(email:cbbg@roadrunner.com, 637-2085)
- Rainbow's End, South Orrington, Maine (Joan Howard, 825-3843)
- The Burr Cemetery in Freeport (865-3940) has set aside a portion of their land for natural burial.

Bios Urn USA

Offers biodegradable funeral urns. Each urn has two chambers, one that contains a pine tree seed (can be replaced with a different seed/seedling) and the other for the ashes. The seed germinates and grows when the urn is planted, and as the urn decomposes the ashes eventually become intermingled with the plant's roots. Urns can be stored for years before being planted.

www.biosurnusa.com

Anatomical/Body Donation in Maine

University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine Body Donor Program

The body donor program is open to residents of the State of Maine. Prospective donors over the age of 18 fill out an Anatomical Donor Form which is witnessed by two people 18 or older and preferably the next-of-kin.

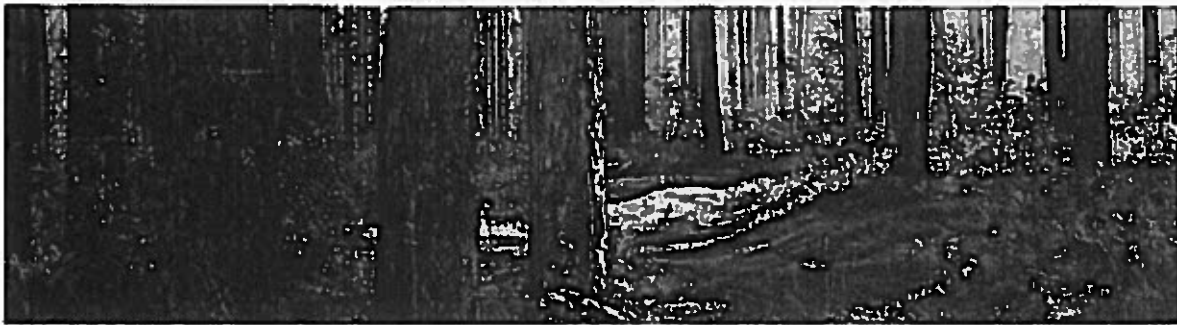
For further details:

Call: Hank Wheat at (207) 602-2202

<http://www.une.edu/com/bodydonor>



Funeral Information You Can Trust



Who Are we?

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Maine (FCAM) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, all volunteer, educational organization dedicated to helping members make informed decisions about after-death arrangements that are dignified, meaningful, and affordable.

FCAM is one of more than 100 similar groups across the country affiliated with the national Funeral Consumers Alliance. We are a non-sectarian, educational organization, and have been providing funeral consumer protection and information in Maine since 1973.

Mission Statement: We promote simplicity, dignity and economy in funeral arrangements through advance planning.

Statement of Purpose: FCAM is a non-profit, non-sectarian, all volunteer organization dedicated to providing education and advocacy for the public so they may be informed of the many options available for pre-planning the disposition of their remains in a dignified, affordable manner.

We accomplish this by:

- Providing education on choice and affordability in funeral and/or memorial arrangements.
- Dispensing current information about the laws and practices concerning death, anatomical gifts, burial and cremation.
- Monitoring pertinent legislation and regulatory activities and advocating when appropriate.
- Educating people about how to obtain funeral services most relevant to their personal desires.
- Providing quarterly newsletters informing people about developments nationally and in Maine that affect the death care industry.

Planning Ahead: Legal Documents

Published on February 21, 2016By [crlakin](#)

Have these three documents in place:

- A will. (Maine has a Statutory Will Form. You can buy a copy for \$1.00 at any county courthouse or download [here](#). What happens if you die without a will in Maine? [Read this](#).)
- Advance Directives: [Compassion and Choices](#) offers easy access to the form for any state AND great advice about filling them out. Make sure the people you have nominated to make decisions for you know what you want by taking the [Healthcare Decisions Quiz](#).
- Durable Power of Attorney for Financial Affairs, or, for example, adding the name of a trusted person to your checking account, some way to allow someone else to pay bills and deposit checks. Take a look at <http://free-power-of-attorney-forms.com>

[Maine Legal Services for the Elderly](#) gives free advice on non-criminal matters to Mainers over 60.

Body Burial Options

Published on February 21, 2016By [crlakin](#)

Funeral Home Services

You can find a directory of funeral homes in your area at [I'm Sorry to Hear, Parting](#), or other internet or yellow pages search. Families may already be familiar with a local funeral home because of family history.

We suggest that you "shop around" since prices may vary widely. Some funeral services' websites will have a General Price List (GPL) posted on their site so you can compare, and others may ask you to come in person to obtain their GPL.

A funeral package generally will not include cemetery costs or some other fees, so be sure to ask. You can spend less by carefully choosing services and options. It is worth your while to read [Shopping for Funeral Services](#) before talking with a funeral director.

Home Funeral

In Maine, next of kin or a person with signed authority becomes the "authorized person" responsible for disposition of the body. Read [Making Arrangements by Authorized Persons](#) for more information.

An authorized person may keep the body at home, build the coffin, do all the paperwork, transport the body to the cemetery, and hold their own memorial service. Visit [Last Things](#) website for a home funeral guide.

If using other than a family cemetery, be aware that there may be costs involved in obtaining a plot, and for opening and closing the site.

Family Cemetery

People can be buried on private property in Maine if you designate a portion of your property as a family burying ground. Check with your local municipality, then follow the simple rules in Maine State Law. A home funeral and burial on your own property may cost very little or nothing at all.

Green Cemetery, Natural Burying Ground, or Conservation Burial Ground

Maine has green cemeteries which provide space to bury a body in a natural environment. The body cannot be embalmed and the shroud or container must be biodegradable.

Cedar Brook Burial Ground

Rainbow's End, South Orrington, Maine (Joan Howard, 825-3843)

Burr Cemetery

See this excellent resource from the producers of A Will for the Woods for a summary about green cemeteries and natural burials. Burial in a green cemetery is less expensive because vaults/grave liners are not permitted.

Burial at Sea

If you are interested in arranging a sea burial, contact:

Diver Ed's Dive-in Theater, Bar Harbor

New England Burials at Sea

FAQs

Brochures and Other Terrific Info

Published on February 22, 2016 By crlak

Download and keep these helpful brochures:

Common Funeral Myths

What You Should Know about Embalming

How to Read a General Price List

How to Choose a Funeral Home

Should You Prepay for Your Funeral

After-Death in Maine

Published on February 18, 2012 By [vlovelace](#)

Did You Know?

- Here in Maine, you have a right to designate an agent in writing to have custody and control of your body to follow your wishes. Learn more in [Title 22, §2843-A](#) of the Maine Statutes.
- Embalming and fancy caskets are NOT required for cremation and burial. You can avoid unnecessary procedures and expenses by planning ahead.
- The average cost of a traditional funeral in the U.S. is now over \$7,500 (*that's before you even get to the cemetery*). Informed consumers can usually purchase simpler services for a fraction of the cost.
- Most individuals never share their funeral or burial wishes with their family members. FCA Maine offers education on advance directives and how to communicate your wishes.

ALERT: Your safety deposit box is a poor place to store your funeral instructions.

- When a body is not displayed, memorial services can be held almost anywhere. FCA Maine offers education on various options, including use of community halls, churches, synagogues, and parks.
- You can have a home funeral without the involvement of a funeral home. FCA Maine offers education about traditional and alternatives such as *natural* or *green* (conservation) burials.