

## Frequently Asked Questions About Cremation

More and more families are choosing cremation. In fact at the current growth rate, cremation will be more popular than burial by the year 2018. However, many people still do not know much about cremation. Find the answers to our frequently asked cremation questions below. You may also visit [DistinctiveLife.com](http://DistinctiveLife.com) or contact us at any time to answer any remaining questions you or your family may have.

### WHY ARE MORE PEOPLE CHOOSING CREMATION?



Cremation opens a wider range of memorialization options. Cremated remains can be placed in a single location, scattered at a favorite location or divided between family members for multiple keepsakes.



Cremation provides an affordable alternative.



Many religions are becoming more tolerant of cremation and have begun to relax restrictions.



Many families find that cremation allows them to easily transport their loved one's cremated remains for traveling purposes.



Environmental considerations are becoming increasingly important to consumers.

### What are the main steps that take place in the cremation process once death occurs?

- Call your funeral provider and allow them to bring your loved one into their care.
- Your Funeral Director will meet with you to obtain all the necessary information to apply for the needed permits from the state and county.
- The State of Texas mandates that cremation cannot take place until 48 hours after death. During this time, your Funeral Director will work with the doctor to secure the Certificate of Death and submit for the Permit to Cremate.
- Once the 48 hours has passed and the doctor has signed the Certificate of Death, your funeral provider will continue with the cremation.

### Do I have to sacrifice the chance to view my loved one, because I have decided on cremation?

No, cremation is not a sacrifice, it is a choice and you have many options. Your Funeral Director will guide you in these options. Today many families have a traditional evening reception, which includes the open casket before the cremation. Other families may decide to have a small private viewing of their loved one for the family only.

All too often families discount the value of ceremony after the death of their loved one. Coming together after a loss is a very important part of the healing process.

### Can I still have a funeral or public viewing with friends and family?

Yes. A funeral service, a viewing, or celebration of life with the deceased present can take place prior to cremation. Alternatively, a memorial service or celebration of life can take place after the cremation has been completed. Even with cremation, having some type of service (before or after) is very important, because coming together after a loss is an essential part of the grieving process.

### Do I need to purchase a casket?

The State of Texas does require that your loved one be placed in a rigid container for the cremation itself. There are different options you have with these types of containers, including cremation caskets. Your Funeral Director will help guide you to choosing one that meets both state requirements and the family's needs.

### Is embalming required when choosing cremation?

Embalming is required only if there is to be a visitation with an open casket before the cremation.

### Do I need an urn?

Yes, you will need to select a container that will hold the cremated remains of your loved one. Please know that most funeral providers provide a plastic container at no charge. However, this is meant for temporary use. Families have many options when it comes to urns that allow personalization for a visible memorial. Your Funeral Director should take the time to show you all the options and provide some ideas based on the personal lifestyle of your loved one.

### What should we do when we receive our loved one back?

You should know that there are no time limits. Traditional options include: burying the urn in a cemetery, scattering your loved one in a special place, or displaying the urn in your home. You can discuss these options and many others with your Funeral Director.

*\*Please know that the State of Texas does not have any regulations concerning the placement of cremated remains. However, should you want to do something on private land or water, please make sure that you get the land owners permission.*

### Can I bury cremated remains in the Veteran Cemetery?

Yes. The Veterans Administration requires proof of honorable discharge for all burials at a Veteran Cemetery, including burial of cremated remains. A Veteran of the armed services discharged under conditions other than dishonorable – as well as their eligible spouse – may petition for burial at a Veteran Cemetery. Visit [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) for a complete list of benefits.

### Can I fly with cremated remains?

Yes. When flying with cremated remains, it is important that copies of the cremation certificate and death certificate accompany the urn at all times. Security personnel at airports may ask for these documents to help them determine if the cremated remains are cremated remains.

### How soon can a cremation take place?

Funeral homes, cemeteries, and crematoriums must abide by state laws and regulations. In most cases, a cremation cannot occur until the death is registered with vital statistics, permits are issued, and 48 hours have elapsed since the time of death.

### Can I view the actual cremation?

Yes, many families come to the crematory to be there with their loved one. This often provides closure much like the tradition of the families going to the cemetery for the committal service. Please make sure that your Funeral Director is aware that you want to be present for the cremation.

### How can I be sure that I receive my loved one back in the urn I selected?

Crematoriums are heavily regulated by the State of Texas and require certain standards and practices that secure the proper identification during the entire time your loved one is in the care of your funeral provider. With that being a minimum, many funeral providers have put additional systems and practices in place to go above and beyond what the law requires. This is an issue that everyone takes very serious. It is advisable to ask your Funeral Director to provide you with their standards and practices.

This information is provided by:



**Our Staff is Available 24 Hours Houston - 713.933.0357 | Dallas - 972.238.7011 | Austin - 512.407.9780**