



## 2018 SURVEY OF AUSTIN AREA PRICES OF SELECTED FUNERAL GOODS & SERVICES

Produced and Published by the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Texas

### Survey procedures

Between January 2 and February 5, 2018, FCACTX volunteers obtained price lists from all 51 funeral establishments physically located in Travis, Williamson, Bastrop, Caldwell, and Hays counties.

The prices in this survey were calculated by reviewing a General Price List (GPL) and a Casket Price List (CPL) provided by each funeral home.

Because some funeral homes offer one or more *packages* and others do not offer *packages*, all costs shown in the survey are taken from products and services itemized on the price lists.

Despite the lack of uniformity in the formats and contents of the price lists, every effort was made to assure that this survey compares **exactly the same services for all funeral homes surveyed.**

Some funeral homes charge an additional fee to pick up the deceased at a residence. This is also true with other kinds of funeral arrangements.

### Survey Chart

The survey chart (pages 3-7) provides the following information:

#### Column

- 1 Name, phone number, address
- 2 Effective dates for 2 price lists (GPL, CPL)  
**Cost at each funeral home:**
- 3 Direct cremation
- 4 Immediate burial with minimum (least expensive) casket
- 5 Funeral including embalming, visitation, and funeral service  
**(Cost of casket not included)**
- 6 Least expensive 20 and 18 gauge metal caskets
- 7 Embalming option
- 8 Free mileage radius / per mileage charge for additional miles
- 9 Basic services fee (for comparison purposes only)

### Definitions, Descriptions, and Notes

#### 1 Name, phone number, address

Funeral homes are listed alphabetically by name rather than by city or zip code. Most funeral providers will travel at least 25 miles (one way) without imposing an extra mileage fee. Extending your options beyond the nearest funeral homes may save you thousands of dollars.

#### 2 Effective dates of General Price Lists (GPLs) and Casket Price Lists (CPLs)

The costs shown are a “snapshot” in time. Funeral homes may change their price lists at any time. It is important to compare the effective date on any price list you pick up during the year with the effective dates of GPLs and CPLs used for this price survey.

#### 3 Direct cremation

Direct cremation includes **only**:

- transfer of the deceased from the place of death to a funeral home or mortuary facility
- appropriate care of the remains (usually refrigeration for at least the 48-hour waiting period between death and cremation)  
Some funeral homes include refrigeration in their direct cremation charge – at least for the first 48 hours, but you should **ask if and when refrigeration charges are added to the Direct Cremation cost shown on the GPL.**
- securing all necessary permits and authorizations for the cremation
- an alternative container to encase the body during cremation (“Alternative container” refers to a heavy-duty cardboard or a combination cardboard/wood container.)
- transportation of the body to the crematory
- the cremation itself
- return of the cremated remains **in a secure container** to the family directly or making them available for pickup at the funeral home, and
- all other services of the funeral director and staff (a non-declinable Basic Services fee that is usually reduced for direct cremations).

Crematories are required to return the cremated remains in a **container**. Some funeral homes may attempt to charge for such a container; however, they are not allowed by law to require its purchase (Texas Health & Safety Code, Sec. 716.155).

When decedents weigh over set amounts – e.g., 250, 275 or 300 pounds – there is often an additional charge for the cremation process and for a larger alternative container. There may also be an additional charge for transporting the body to the funeral home and/or crematory.

If the decedent **died** in Travis County, the Travis County Medical Examiner charges **\$25** to issue a **Cremation Permit Fee**. This fee is **not** included in the prices shown.

© Copyright 2018. Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Texas, a volunteer-run 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization  
This survey is for educational and personal use only. It may not be used for any commercial purpose.

3710 Cedar Street, Mailbox 13, Austin, TX 78705-1449; office phone: 512-480-0555; e-mail: [office@fcactx.org](mailto:office@fcactx.org); Web: <http://www.fcactx.org>

#### 4 Immediate burial

Immediate burial includes **only**:

- transfer of the deceased from the place of death to a funeral home or mortuary
- placement of the body in the funeral home's "minimum" or least expensive casket (usually cloth-covered wood, wood with a veneer, or 20 gauge metal)
- all services of the funeral director and staff (a non-declinable fee that is usually reduced for immediate burials), and
- transportation of the body to a cemetery or other burial site

Immediate burial is usually done within 48 hours of death, sometimes sooner.

Only a few GPLs used in the survey specify refrigeration in their list of immediate burial goods and services. This is important to note because some funeral homes will charge for refrigeration if the deceased is not buried within 24 hours of the time they take possession of the body.

Immediate burial does not include a grave space, opening and closing the grave, a grave liner (if desired by the family or required by the cemetery), or a grave marker.

#### 5 Funeral service

The funeral service in this survey is a hypothetical funeral service. It includes the following goods and services:

- the full non-declinable fee for the basic services of the funeral director and staff, including overhead costs (column 9 in the survey price chart)
- transport of the deceased from the place of death to funeral home
- embalming (column 7 in the chart)
- dressing the body and placing it in the casket
- a visitation (at least 4 hours) **at the funeral home**
- a funeral service **at another facility**
- use of a hearse or other funeral vehicle for transport of the body to a cemetery
- use of a vehicle to carry flowers to a cemetery
- a "lead car" to transport clergy to the cemetery (This cost can be eliminated by using a private vehicle unless the police escort for the funeral procession requires a lead/clergy car.)

**The hypothetical funeral does not include the cost of a casket**

because selections vary widely and there is no way to know what families will select and from whom they will purchase it. (See **Caskets**, page 8.) Keep in mind other costs not included in the hypothetical funeral:

- a grave space or plot
- opening and closing the grave
- a grave liner, if desired or required by the cemetery
- a grave marker
- an obituary
- flowers
- services of clergy, organist, vocalist or other musician
- a police escort
- possible utility vehicle charge to pick up permits, etc.
- any other services or products not described above

At least some of the costs above must be added to the cost of the items listed for a basic funeral service to get a true picture of the total cost of a funeral service that includes casket burial.

#### 6 Least expensive 20 and 18 gauge metal caskets

The casket prices on the survey chart are for the least expensive 20-gauge metal casket (usually without a gasket), and the least expensive 18-gauge metal casket (usually with a gasket) offered at each funeral home. Keep in mind you may purchase a casket or urn from another source. (See **Caskets**, page 8.)

#### 7 Embalming option (**Do not add this cost to any other costs.**)

Embalming is not required by law in Texas. You should know that embalming has no public health benefits that have been recognized by any public health authority. At best, it merely slows the natural decomposition process.

**Refrigeration**, which is a more affordable, non-invasive alternative to embalming, is used for Direct Cremations and Immediate Burials. (See **Slowing Decomposition**, page 8.)

#### 8 Mileage radius / per mile charge beyond mileage radius

Most funeral providers will travel at least 25 **one-way** miles before imposing an extra mileage fee. This information can help you expand your options beyond the nearest funeral homes and, in some instances, significantly reduce final expenses, even if you do end up paying for additional miles.

#### 9 Basic services fee (**Do not add this cost to any other costs.**)

The Basic Services Fee refers to the amount a funeral home chooses to charge for the basic services provided by the funeral director and staff, plus overhead costs.

The Basic Services fees for **Direct Cremation** and **Immediate Burial** are usually calculated by the funeral home at a **reduced** amount.

In the survey chart, Basic Services fees **are included in all prices shown**. The fees are listed in the chart solely to make you aware of the wide variances.

© Copyright 2018. Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Texas, a volunteer-run 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization  
This survey is for educational and personal use only. It may not be used for any commercial purpose.



**2018 SURVEY OF AUSTIN AREA PRICES OF SELECTED FUNERAL GOODS & SERVICES**  
 Produced and Published by the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Texas

To understand fully the terms and the prices in the survey chart, refer to pages 1 and 2.  
 Contact funeral homes to determine any price changes since volunteers collected price lists between January 2 and February 5, 2018.  
 See pages 8-9 for information on ways to make final arrangements more affordable.

Funeral home name phone street address / city	Effective dates for price lists: General Price List (GPL) Casket Price List (CPL)	Direct cremation including crematory fee *	Immediate burial with minimum (least expensive) casket **	Basic funeral service <u>not</u> including casket	Lowest cost 20 gauge metal casket / lowest cost 18 gauge metal casket	Embalming option ( <u>Do not add</u> <u>to costs in</u> <u>other</u> <u>columns.</u> )	Mileage radius / Per mile charge beyond radius	Basic Services Fee ( <u>Do not add to</u> <u>costs in other</u> <u>columns.</u> )
<b>A Plus Cremation</b> (note 1) 512-221-0603 1202 Williams Dr. <b>Georgetown</b>	both lists 11-14-17	\$995	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	35 miles / then \$1.95 per mile	N/A
<b>Affordable Burial &amp; Cremation Service</b> 512-354-2509 13009 Dessau Rd., Ste. M <b>Austin</b>	both lists 10-01-16	\$650	\$1,350	\$3,040 + casket	20 ..... \$895 18 ..... \$1,645	\$700	25 miles / then \$2.00 per mile	\$525
<b>All Faiths Funeral Services (north location)</b> 512-339-8878 8507 N. IH-35 <b>Austin</b>	both lists 10-30-17	\$1,095	\$3,620	\$4,810 + casket	20 ..... \$1,495 18 ..... \$2,495	\$625	25 miles / then \$3.25 per mile	\$1,495
<b>All Faiths Funeral Services (south location)</b> 512-326-8878 4360 S. Congress Ave., Ste. 115 <b>Austin</b>	both lists 10-30-17	\$795	\$2,910	\$3,805 + casket	20 ..... \$1,495 18 ..... \$2,495	\$625	25 miles / then \$3.25 per mile	\$895
<b>All Faiths of the Pines</b> 512-237-3836 110 American Legion Rd. <b>Smithville</b>	both lists 10-27-17	\$1,895	\$4,335	\$5,055 + casket	20 ..... \$1,395 18 ..... \$2,995	\$695	45 miles / then \$3.10 per mile	\$1,995
<b>Austin Cremations</b> (note 2) 512-777-1699 1800 Central Commerce Ct., # 800 <b>Round Rock</b>	GPL 09-07-17 CPL N/A	\$967	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	30 miles / then \$3.00 per mile	N/A
<b>Austin-Peel &amp; Son Funeral Home</b> 512-419-7224 607 E. Anderson Ln. <b>Austin</b>	both lists 04-14-17	\$2,040	\$3,290	\$4,950 + casket	20 ..... \$1,495 18 ..... \$2,195	\$625	35 miles / then \$2.25 per mile	\$1,825
<b>Bastrop Providence Funeral Home</b> 512-308-9188 2079 Hwy. 71 East. <b>Bastrop</b>	both lists 10-01-15	\$2,090	\$3,343	\$5,560 + casket	20 ..... \$995 18 ..... \$2,695	\$895	50 miles / then \$2.50 per mile	\$2,895
<b>Beck Funeral Home</b> 512-244-3772 15709 RR 620 <b>Austin</b>	GPL 04-01-17 CPL 12-01-17	\$2,685	\$5,085	\$6,570 + casket	20 ..... \$1,295 18 ..... \$2,395	\$995	25 miles / then \$2.95 per mile	\$2,795

\* **Direct Cremation:** Always ask the funeral provider if Refrigeration is included in the Direct Cremation charge on the General Price List. If it is, ask how many days are included before a Refrigeration charge is added. A Refrigeration charge may apply after the period required to secure documents or if a delay is requested by family.

\*\* **Immediate Burial:** Ask if refrigeration charges are added if burial does not take place within 24 hours.

**note 1:** A Plus Cremation and Beck Funeral Homes are under common ownership.

**note 2:** Austin Cremations and 12 other funeral providers in this survey are affiliated with SCI (Service Corporation International).

© Copyright 2018. Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Texas, a volunteer-run 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization  
 This survey is for educational and personal use only. It may not be used for any commercial purpose.

Funeral home name phone street address / city	Effective dates for price lists: General Price List (GPL) Casket Price List (CPL)	Direct cremation including crematory fee *	Immediate burial with minimum (least expensive) casket **	Basic funeral service <u>not</u> including casket	Lowest cost 20 gauge metal casket / lowest cost 18 gauge metal casket	Embalming option <u>(Do not add to costs in other columns.)</u>	Mileage radius / Per mile charge beyond radius	Basic Services Fee <u>(Do not add to costs in other columns.)</u>
<b>Beck Funeral Home</b> 512-259-1610 1700 E. Whitestone Cedar Park	GPL 04-01-17 CPL 12-01-17	\$2,685	\$5,085	\$6,570 + casket	20 ..... \$1,295 18 ..... \$2,395	\$995	25 miles / then \$2.95 per mile	\$2,795
<b>Beck Funeral Home</b> 512-251-3500 4765 Priem Lane Pflugerville								
<b>Condra Funeral Home</b> 512-352-3636 503 Talbot St. (notes 3, 4) Taylor	both lists 01-30-18	\$2,675	\$4,290	\$6,690 + casket	20 ..... \$1,295 18 ..... \$2,895	\$1,095	50 miles / then \$3.00 per mile	\$2,730
<b>Cook-Walden Funeral Home</b> 512-454-5611 6100 N. Lamar Austin (note 4)	both lists 03-24-17	\$3,070	\$5,090	\$8,990 + casket	20 ..... \$1,295 18 ..... \$2,295	\$1,395	35 miles / then \$3.50 per mile	\$4,380
<b>Cook-Walden/Capital Parks</b> 512-251-4118 14501 N. IH-35 Pflugerville (note 4)								
<b>Cook-Walden Chapel of the Hills</b> 512-335-1155 9700 Anderson Mill Rd. Austin (note 4)	both lists 03-02-17	\$3,070	\$5,090	\$8,605 + casket	20 ..... \$1,295 18 ..... \$2,295	\$1,395	35 miles / then \$3.50 per mile	\$3,995
<b>Cook-Walden/Forest Oaks</b> 512-892-1172 6300 W. William Cannon Dr. Austin (note 4)	both lists 07-17-17	\$3,070	\$5,090	\$8,605 + casket	20 ..... \$1,295 18 ..... \$2,295	\$1,395	35 miles / then \$3.50 per mile	\$3,995
<b>Cook-Walden Davis Funeral Home</b> 512-863-2564 2900 Williams Dr. Georgetown (note 4)	both lists 07-17-17	\$2,470	\$4,090	\$5,560 + casket	20 ..... \$1,295 18 ..... \$2,295	\$1,395	35 miles / then \$3.50 per mile	\$1,595
<b>DeLeon Funeral Home</b> 512-376-6200 110 E. Cedar St. Lockhart	both lists 05-01-17	\$2,375	\$4,390	\$6,105 + casket	20 ..... \$1,195 18 ..... \$4,595	\$595	30 miles / then \$2.95 per mile	\$2,795
<b>Eeds Funeral Home</b> 512-398-2343 408 S. Main St. Lockhart	GPL 01-01-18 CPL 09-20-17	\$2,650	\$3,095 (within Caldwell County)	\$5,250 + casket	20 ..... \$1,095 18 ..... \$1,895	\$650	20 miles / then \$4.50 per mile	\$1,950
<b>Elgin Funeral Home</b> 512-281-5697 712 N. Avenue C Elgin	both lists 11-06-17	\$1,445	\$2,540	\$4,090 + casket	20 ..... \$1,095 18 ..... \$2,595	\$590	35 miles / then \$2.95 per mile	\$1,400

\* **Direct Cremation:** Always ask the funeral provider if Refrigeration is **included** in the Direct Cremation charge on the General Price List. If it is, ask **how many days** are included before a Refrigeration charge is added. A Refrigeration charge may apply after the period required to secure documents **or** if a delay is requested by family.

\*\* **Immediate Burial:** Ask if refrigeration charges are added if burial does not take place within 24 hours.

**note 3:** **Condra Funeral Home's** price lists were obtained via email on 02-05-18 following an in-person visit on 01-23-18 at which time the funeral director handed to the FCACTX volunteer price lists for **Goodnight Funeral Home in Bartlett, TX**. As he had previously done during 2 visits in January 2015, the Condra funeral director said he hadn't had time to print more Condra price lists but it was okay to use Goodnight's price lists because the prices were the same.

**note 4:** **Condra Funeral Home, 5 Cook-Walden Funeral Homes** and 7 other funeral providers listed in this survey are affiliated with SCI (Service Corporation International).

© Copyright 2018. Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Texas, a volunteer-run 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization  
This survey is for educational and personal use only. It may not be used for any commercial purpose.

Funeral home name phone street address / city	Effective dates for price lists: General Price List (GPL) Casket Price List (CPL)	Direct cremation including crematory fee *	Immediate burial with minimum (least expensive) casket **	Basic funeral service <u>not</u> including casket	Lowest cost 20 gauge metal casket / lowest cost 18 gauge metal casket	Embalming option <u>(Do not add to costs in other columns.)</u>	Mileage radius / Per mile charge beyond radius	Basic Services Fee <u>(Do not add to costs in other columns.)</u>
<b>Fuller-Sheffield Funeral Home</b> (note 5) 512-476-9164 2808 E. MLK Jr. Blvd. Austin	both lists 01-04-17	\$2,120	\$3,590	\$5,120 + casket	20 ..... \$1,695 18 ..... \$2,795	\$995	25 miles / then \$3.00 per mile	\$2,050
<b>Gabriels Funeral Chapel, The</b> 512-869-8888 393 N. IH-35 Georgetown	both lists 10-11-17	\$2,225	\$3,090	\$5,380 + casket	20 ..... \$895 18 ..... \$1,995	\$1,075	40 miles / then \$2.75 per mile	\$1,995
<b>Gipson Pendergrass People's Mortuary</b> 512-237-2365 109 N.W. First St. Smithville	both lists 11-20-15	\$1,325	\$2,077.75	\$3,810 + casket	20....\$1,087.50 18....\$3,187.50	\$675	25 miles / then \$2.50 per mile	\$1,300
<b>Harrell Funeral Home</b> 512-443-1366 4435 Frontier Trail Austin	both lists 12-01-17	\$2,895	\$4,675	\$5,905 + casket	20 ..... \$1,395 18 ..... \$2,795	\$895	25 miles / then \$3.50 per mile	\$2,495
<b>Harrell Funeral Home</b> 512-382-6543 100 Heritage Dr. & Hwy 290 W. Dripping Springs								
<b>Harrell Funeral Home</b> 512-268-8200 1715 Kirby near FM 2770 & Kohlers Crossing Kyle								
<b>Heart of Texas Cremation &amp; Burial Service</b> 512-243-7277 (note 6) 12010 Hwy. 290 W., Ste. 210 Austin	GPL 09-05-17 CPL N/A	\$575	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	see note 6 / \$2.25 per mile	N/A
<b>King-Tears Mortuary</b> 512-476-9128 1300 E. 12th St. Austin	GPL 10-24-12 CPL 01-19-07	\$1,940	\$3,690	\$4,910 + casket	20 ..... \$1,195 18 ..... \$2,895	\$895	30 miles / then \$1.95 per mile	\$1,950
<b>Legends Funeral Home</b> (note 7) 512-256-1220 101-B Centerpoint Rd. San Marcos	GPL 09-12-17 CPL 09-05-17	\$1,435	\$2,445	\$3,475 + casket	20 ..... \$995 18 ..... \$1,695	\$525	see note 7 / \$2.25 per mile	\$750
<b>Life Celebration by Franklin, A</b> 512-365-6000 510 S. Main St. Taylor	GPL 11-30-12 CPL 01-09-07	\$2,140	\$3,790	\$4,510 + casket	20 ..... \$1,195 18 ..... \$2,895	\$795	30 miles / then \$1.95 per mile	\$1,695

\* **Direct Cremation:** Always ask the funeral provider if Refrigeration is **included** in the Direct Cremation charge on the General Price List. If it is, ask **how many days** are included before a Refrigeration charge is added. A Refrigeration charge may apply after the period required to secure documents **or** if a delay is requested by family.

\*\* **Immediate Burial:** Ask if refrigeration charges are added if burial does not take place within 24 hours.

**note 5:** Fuller-Sheffield Funeral Home and 12 other funeral providers listed in this survey are affiliated with SCI (Service Corporation International).

**note 6:** Heart of Texas Cremation & Burial Service: In the FCACTX service area, this provider's services are available only in Hays, Travis, and Williamson Counties. No mileage charge within these counties.

**note 7:** Legends Funeral Home: In the FCACTX service area, this provider's services are available only in Caldwell and Hays Counties. No mileage charge within these counties or for transportation to and/or from the Travis County Medical Examiner in Austin.

© Copyright 2018. Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Texas, a volunteer-run 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization  
This survey is for educational and personal use only. It may not be used for any commercial purpose.

Funeral home name phone street address / city	Effective dates for price lists: General Price List (GPL) Casket Price List (CPL)	Direct cremation including crematory fee *	Immediate burial with minimum (least expensive) casket **	Basic funeral service <u>not</u> including casket	Lowest cost 20 gauge metal casket / lowest cost 18 gauge metal casket	Embalming option <u>(Do not add to costs in other columns.)</u>	Mileage radius / Per mile charge beyond radius	Basic Services Fee <u>(Do not add to costs in other columns.)</u>
<b>Los Angeles Funeral Home</b> (note 8) 512-392-3676 300 Cheatham St. <b>San Marcos</b>	both lists 01-15-17	\$3,110	\$4,165	\$5,475 + casket	20..... \$1,095 18..... \$2,595	\$795	25 miles / then \$3.25 per mile	\$1,995
<b>Marrs-Jones Funeral Home</b> 512-237-2425 104 Olive St. <b>Smithville</b>	GPL 12-14-17 CPL 10-23-17	\$2,675	\$4,290	\$6,690 + casket	20..... \$1,295 18..... \$2,895	\$1,095	50 miles / then \$3.00 per mile	\$2,730
<b>Marrs-Jones-Newby Funeral Home</b> 512-321-2576 505 Old Austin Hwy. <b>Bastrop</b>	GPL 12-14-17 CPL 10-23-17	\$2,675	\$4,290	\$6,690 + casket	20..... \$1,295 18..... \$2,895	\$1,095	50 miles / then \$3.00 per mile	\$2,730
<b>McCurdy Funeral Home</b> (note 9) 512-398-4791 105 E. Pecan St. <b>Lockhart</b>	GPL 04-30-16 CPL 10-15-14	\$3,305	\$4,775	\$5,560 + casket	20..... \$1,195 18..... \$2,795	\$575	25 miles / then \$2.75 per mile	\$2,825
<b>Mission (East Side)</b> 512-476-4355 1615 E. Cesar Chavez St. <b>Austin</b>	both lists 07-15-17	\$4,110	\$5,465	\$5,675 + casket	20..... \$1,095 18..... \$2,395	\$795	25 miles / then \$3.25 per mile	\$2,195
<b>Mission Serenity Chapel (South Side)</b> 512-444-3355 6204 S. First St. <b>Austin</b>	both lists 07-15-17	\$4,110	\$5,465	\$6,275 + casket	20..... \$1,095 18..... \$2,395	\$795	25 miles / then \$3.25 per mile	\$2,695
<b>Neptune Society</b> (notes 10, 11) 512-323-0122 911 W. Anderson Ln., Ste. 111 <b>Austin</b>	GPL 03-01-17 CPL N/A	\$2,137	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	50 miles / see note 13	N/A
<b>O'Bannon Funeral Home</b> 830-875-5713 210 S. Laurel St. <b>Luling</b>	GPL 10-01-14 CPL 10-01-15	\$2,945	\$3,545	\$6,545 + casket	20..... \$1,595 18..... \$2,995	\$995	35 miles / then \$2.95 per mile	\$2,595
<b>Pennington Funeral Home</b> (note 9) 512-353-4311 323 N. Comanche St. <b>San Marcos</b>	GPL 04-30-16 CPL 10-15-14	\$3,305	\$4,775	\$5,560 + casket	20..... \$1,195 18..... \$2,795	\$575	25 miles / then \$2.75 per mile	\$2,825
<b>Phillips-Upshaw &amp; Richard Funeral Home</b> 512-472-1934 1410 E. 12th St. <b>Austin</b>	both lists 01-01-17	\$1,410	\$2,690	\$4,005 + casket	20..... \$1,195 18..... \$1,795	\$895	20 miles / then \$4.25 per mile	\$1,450
<b>Providence Funeral Home</b> 512-352-5909 807 Carlos Parker Blvd. N.W. <b>Taylor</b>	both lists 10-15-17	\$2,390	\$3,390	\$5,795 + casket	20..... \$995 18..... \$2,395	\$995	50 miles / then \$2.50 per mile	\$2,995

\* **Direct Cremation:** Always ask the funeral provider if Refrigeration is **included** in the Direct Cremation charge on the General Price List. If it is, ask **how many days** are included before a Refrigeration charge is added. A Refrigeration charge may apply after the period required to secure documents **or** if a delay is requested by family.

\*\* **Immediate Burial:** Ask if refrigeration charges are added if burial does not take place within 24 hours.

**note 8:** **Los Angeles Funeral Home**, **Mission Funeral Home** and **Mission Serenity Chapel** are under common ownership.

**note 9:** **McCurdy Funeral Home** and **Pennington Funeral Home** are under common ownership.

**note 10:** **Neptune Society** and 12 other funeral providers listed in this survey are affiliated with SCI (Service Corporation International).

**note 11:** When death occurs beyond a 50-mile radius, **Neptune Society** uses refrigeration and cremation facilities of an SCI funeral home closest to where death occurred.

© Copyright 2018. Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Texas, a volunteer-run 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

This survey is for educational and personal use only. It may not be used for any commercial purpose.

Funeral home name phone street address / city	Effective dates for price lists: General Price List (GPL) Casket Price List (CPL)	Direct cremation including crematory fee *	Immediate burial with minimum (least expensive) casket **	Basic funeral service <u>not</u> including casket	Lowest cost 20 gauge metal casket / lowest cost 18 gauge metal casket	Embalming option <u>(Do not add to costs in other columns.)</u>	Mileage radius / Per mile charge beyond radius	Basic Services Fee <u>(Do not add to costs in other columns.)</u>
<b>Providence-Jones Family Funeral Home</b> 512-281-2340 604 Hwy. 95 North Elgin	GPL 05-01-15 CPL 10-16-15	\$1,450	\$2,495	\$4,320 + casket	20..... \$975 18.... \$2,295	\$595	50 miles / then \$2.50 per mile	\$1,560
<b>Ramsey Funeral Home</b> 512-869-7775 5600 Williams Dr. Georgetown	GPL 11-15-17 CPL 01-06-17	\$995	\$2,490	\$4,995 + casket	20..... \$895 18.... \$1,995	\$825	35 miles / then \$2.30 per mile	\$1,850
<b>Renee Scott</b> 512-407-9780 8708 S. Congress Ave., #B270 Austin	GPL 01-18-18 CPL 12-15-17	\$1,795	\$4,565	\$6,850 + casket	20.... \$1,295 18.... \$2,795	\$845	50 miles / then \$3.25 per mile	\$2,695
<b>Solace Eco-Friendly Funeral Services</b> 512-294-1499 1508 W. Koenig Lane Austin	both lists 02-07-17	\$1,415	\$1,494	\$4,215 + casket	20..... \$999 18.... \$1,399	\$695	30 miles / then \$2.95 per mile	\$1,195
<b>Thomason Funeral Home</b> 512-396-2300 2001 RR 12 San Marcos	both lists 02-01-17	\$2,850	\$3,595	\$5,450 + casket	20.... \$1,195 18.... \$2,795	\$450	no charge within Hays County / \$2.50 per mile outside Hays County	\$2,750
<b>Thomason Funeral Home</b> 512-847-2226 14700 RR 12 North Wimberley								
<b>Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home (note 12)</b> 512-452-8811 3125 N. Lamar Austin	both lists 12-02-17	\$2,995	\$4,830	\$5,765 + casket	20.... \$1,395 18.... \$2,495	\$750	30 miles / then \$3.00 per mile	\$2,595
<b>Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home (note 12)</b> 512-442-1446 2620 S. Congress Ave. Austin								
<b>Weed-Corley-Fish (Lake Travis) (note 12)</b> 512-263-1511 411 RR 620 South Lakeway								
<b>Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home (note 12)</b> 512-260-8800 1200 S. Bagdad Rd. Leander								
<p>* <b>Direct Cremation:</b> Always ask the funeral provider if Refrigeration is <b>included</b> in the Direct Cremation charge on the General Price List. If it is, ask <b>how many days</b> are included before a Refrigeration charge is added. A Refrigeration charge may apply after the period required to secure documents <b>or</b> if a delay is requested by family.</p> <p>* <b>Immediate Burial:</b> Ask if refrigeration charges are added if burial does not take place within 24 hours.</p> <p><b>note 12: 4 Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Homes</b> and 9 other funeral providers listed in this survey are affiliated with SCI (Service Corporation International).</p>								

#### Additional Options

- **aCremation:** [www.acremation.com](http://www.acremation.com). Corporate office/central call center in Mesquite, Texas. Its licensed physical establishment is located in Rockwall, Texas. Arrangements are made online and by telephone. This business contracts with local mortuary services and crematories to provide all local services. On 01-17-18, their website indicated "[cremated] Remains Pick-Up: 201 Victor St." (Capital Mortuary Services)
- You may wish to consider a **home or family-led funeral**. See page 8 for more information about this option. See also <http://texashomefunerals.com/>.

© Copyright 2018. Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Texas, a volunteer-run 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization  
This survey is for educational and personal use only. It may not be used for any commercial purpose.

## Cost-saving suggestions for consumers

**Comparing prices and knowing your rights.** The Federal Trade Commission requires funeral providers to provide price information over the telephone and to supply a copy of their General Price List (GPL) to anyone requesting it in person. Typically, the Casket Price List (CPL) and the Outer Burial Container (OBC) Price List are attached to the GPL. If not, ask for them. The CPL must be shown to you before discussing casket prices.

When offered a package, it is important to examine it closely because not all packages provide discounts. Consider, too, that packages often include goods and/or services you don't want, but you will have to pay for them if you choose the package.

Most funeral homes will modify prices and services to get your business if they know you are willing to go elsewhere for goods and services, and they may not charge you for everything they are allowed by law to charge for.

**Reducing final expenses.** Choose Immediate Burial, a graveside service, or direct cremation followed by an optional memorial service that can be held almost anywhere people can gather.

Another way to reduce expenses is to compare prices at funeral homes no more than 25 miles from the place where a death has occurred. GPLs indicate how far a funeral provider will travel before charging a mileage fee. Expanding your options beyond a nearby funeral home can sometimes reduce funeral costs significantly. Especially with direct cremation, the location of the funeral home is not a significant factor if you plan to have a memorial service later at another location.

### Cost considerations when selecting burial

- If you select Immediate Burial, ask if there will be a charge for refrigeration.
- In determining the total cost for a burial, families need to include the cost of the burial space/plot, the charge to open and close the grave, a grave liner (which is not required by law but **may** be required by a cemetery to simplify grounds maintenance), and a grave marker. Prices vary greatly on these items, depending on the location of the gravesite and the materials used for the grave liner and the marker.
- At smaller, rural, or natural-burial cemeteries, families that wish to do so may often arrange to open and close the grave themselves.

**Family-Led Funerals.** Families who would like to handle some or all of the arrangements themselves can realize even greater savings with a **home or family-led funeral**, which, in Texas, does not require the services of a funeral

director. With the proper authorizations, you may transport the deceased to the cemetery or to a crematory that will deal directly with the public. If you prefer to have a funeral director perform some tasks – such as completing paperwork and obtaining the death certificate – some funeral directors in the Austin area will do this for a fee. See <http://texashomefunerals.com>.

**Slowing decomposition.** After 24 hours from the time of death, the law requires that a body must (1) be kept between 34 and 40 degrees; or (2) be kept in an odor-proof and leak-proof container; or (3) be embalmed.

If a body is donated, the donor institution will provide for how the body is maintained or prepared.

**Embalming** is not required by law in Texas. You should know that embalming has no public health benefits that have been recognized by any public health authority. At best, it merely slows the natural decomposition process.

Even though embalming is not required by law, most funeral directors will not allow a public viewing of a body that has not been embalmed. As shown on the survey price chart, embalming is also a profitable practice.

Refrigeration, which is a more affordable, non-invasive alternative to embalming, is used mostly for Direct Cremations and Immediate Burials.

**Refrigeration** is used to reduce or control decomposition while awaiting final disposition. Some funeral homes include refrigeration in their direct cremation charge – at least for the first 48 hours – but you should **ask if and when refrigeration charges are added to the costs shown on the GPL for direct cremation and immediate burial**.

Avoid embalming and viewing of the body in the funeral home parlor, a practice falsely promoted by some funeral directors as essential to the grief process. Instead, display pictures and mementos of the deceased at a gathering where sharing and visiting can focus on the memories of the deceased, rather than on an elaborately displayed body in an open casket.

**Caskets.** Families wanting a 20-ga. or an 18-ga. casket should compare the prices in the survey to the prices for similar caskets available from local casket retailers and online sources (e.g., casket companies, [www.walmart.com](http://www.walmart.com), [www.costco.com](http://www.costco.com), [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), and [www.overstock.com](http://www.overstock.com)).

Metal caskets with rubber gaskets (sealers) will cost more and only affect **how** the body inside decomposes.

Many of these sellers also offer wood and wood veneer caskets, as well as cremation urns made of various materials.

Other casket options include wood caskets available from a variety of sources, including local carpenters and woodworkers.

Families who wish to make the casket themselves can find diagrams in books and on the internet.

“Cremation caskets” are often among the lowest-cost caskets offered at many funeral homes and are suitable for burial as well as cremation.

“Alternative containers” – typically used for cremation – are also acceptable for burial.

Consider using a cremation container, a plain wooden casket, or the least expensive casket available. Any casket can be covered with a flag, the deceased's favorite quilt, a religious pall, or other cloth. If desired, you can invite family and friends to write or draw something on the outside of cardboard or unfinished wood caskets, as is sometimes done at home funerals.

Remember, too, that you can buy any kind of casket from sources other than a funeral home. You may also be able to use their prices to negotiate a lower price at the funeral home.

In certain circumstances, such as natural burial, a **shroud** is a choice to consider.

**Unreasonable markups.** Refrigeration charges are an excellent example of huge markups. According to industry sources, providing refrigeration costs less than \$1.00 a day when all acquisition and operation costs are considered. Yet nearly all funeral homes listed in the survey price chart charge more than \$50 per day for refrigeration.

Many people who study the economics of the deathcare industry believe that high charges for refrigeration are used to assure that a family will choose embalming, which, in turn, usually results in additional spending for public viewing, a more expensive casket because it will be seen at close range by the public, and often a more expensive outer burial container so the expensive casket is better protected, which should not be a concern since the casket will not be seen again after the interment is over.

**Additional extra costs** may be incurred at some funeral homes for making arrangements for a service at a location other than the funeral home; for picking up a body beyond certain distances from some funeral homes as noted on those funeral homes' GPLs; for paying with a credit card; and for processing insurance policies. In addition, some funeral homes in the survey identify on their GPLs other extra costs that may be charged.

Other goods and services sold at funeral homes can increase the cost of a funeral significantly – items such as burial clothing, temporary grave

markers, bronze caskets costing up to \$60,000, bronze vaults costing over \$16,000, extra viewing and visitation at the funeral home, alternative casket interiors, a crucifix, a flag case, prayer cards, video presentations, use of chairs/awning/artificial grass at the cemetery for a graveside or committal service, releases of balloons or doves, permanent grave markers or monuments, and other goods and services.

**Avoiding manipulation.** Don't be led to believe that the more you spend on the funeral or the casket, the greater your love for the deceased. Be wary of appeals to guilt, family pride, and social pressures that can cause you to spend more than you want to spend or can afford.

The funeral industry has depended on the fact that most consumers avoid death and its trappings until they are in the throes of grief just after the death of a loved one. Such feelings can make anyone vulnerable to exploitation and confusion. If faced with this situation, take along a trusted friend for assistance with making arrangements. A friend who is less emotionally involved with the dozens of decisions to be made can give sound advice and help avoid unnecessary expenses.

**Discussing your final wishes now.** Become an informed consumer now and discuss various disposition options with your family and close friends so they will be prepared to follow your wishes.

Discuss religious questions with a clergyperson or religious leader rather than a funeral director.

**Using this survey at a funeral home.** Remember to compare the effective date on any price list you are given with the effective dates of the General Price Lists (GPLs) and Casket Price Lists (CPLs) used for this price survey.

**Burial Benefits for veterans and their spouses.** Complete information about burial benefits for veterans and their spouses, scheduling, and more at [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov), or call 1-800-827-1000.

**Burial on private property** in an incorporated city, town, or village is subject to that entity's zoning regulations or other related ordinances. Burial outside a municipality is generally unregulated. Burial on private property creates an encumbrance on the land if it is ever sold. Information on establishing a family cemetery can be found online at [www.txca.us/resources/documents/establishing%20a%20family%20cemetery.pdf](http://www.txca.us/resources/documents/establishing%20a%20family%20cemetery.pdf).