



2020 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 20, 2020, FCACTX volunteers obtained price lists from all **56** funeral establishments **physically located** in Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson counties.

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

Because some funeral homes offer one or more *packages* and others do not offer *packages*, all costs shown in the survey were 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.**

The survey price chart includes **notes** that provide additional information about some prices in the chart. The notes also indicate common ownerships.

Survey Chart

The survey chart (pages 3-8) provides the following information:

Column

- 1 Name, phone number, address
 - 2 Effective dates for two 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 Free mileage radius / per mileage charge for additional miles
 - 7 Least expensive 20-gauge and 18-gauge metal caskets
 - 8 Embalming option **(for comparison purposes only)**
 - 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 obtain during the year with the GPL and CPL effective dates in column 2 of this survey’s price chart.

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
- returning the cremated remains **in a secure container** to the family directly or making them available for pickup at the funeral home
- 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 a **\$25 Cremation Permit Fee**, which, like death certificates, is a third-party charge, usually collected by the funeral home.

4 Immediate burial

Immediate burial includes **only**:

- transfer of the deceased from the place of death to a funeral home or mortuary facility
- 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)
- transportation of the body to a cemetery or other burial site
- all services of the funeral director and staff (a non-declinable fee that is usually reduced for immediate burials)

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

Only a few GPLs used in the survey include refrigeration in their list of immediate burial goods and services. This is important to note because some funeral homes will **add** a refrigeration charge 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:

- transfer of the deceased from the place of death to a funeral home
- embalming (column 8 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 to transport the casket
- use of a vehicle to transport flowers
- 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 full non-declinable fee for the basic services of the funeral director and staff (See column 9 in the survey price chart.)

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 and urns**, page 9.)

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 burial.

6 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.

7 Least expensive 20-gauge 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 and urns**, page 9.)

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

Embalming is not required by law. 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 9.)

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.

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.

The basic services fees for **direct cremation** and **immediate burial** are usually calculated by the funeral home at a **reduced** amount.



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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 20, 2020.

See pages 9–10 for information on ways to make final arrangements more affordable.

The survey on our website (www.fcactx.org) has hot links to all funeral providers with websites. 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	One-way mileage radius / Per mile charge beyond radius	Lowest cost 20-gauge metal casket / lowest cost 18-gauge metal casket	FYI: For comparison only (Do not add to costs in other columns) Embalming option	FYI: For comparison only (Do not add to costs in other columns) Basic Services Fee
A Plus Cremation 512-221-0603 1223 Leander Rd. Georgetown	GPL 04-05-19 CPL N/A	\$995	N/A	N/A	35 miles / then \$1.95 per mile	N/A	N/A	N/A
Affordable Burial & Cremation Service 512-354-2509 13009 Dessau Rd., Ste. M Austin	GPL 09-01-18 CPL 10-01-16	\$650 or \$775 (note 1)	\$1,475	\$3,040 + casket	25 miles / then \$2.00 per mile	20\$895 18\$1,645	\$700	\$525
All Faiths Funeral Services (north) (note 2) 512-339-8878 8507 N. IH-35 Austin	both lists 10-30-17	\$1,095	\$3,620	\$4,810 + casket	25 miles / then \$3.25 per mile	20\$1,495 18\$2,495	\$625	\$1,495
All Faiths Funeral Services (south) (note 2) 512-326-8878 4360 S. Congress Ave., Ste. 115 Austin	both lists 08-30-19	\$895	\$2,910	\$3,905 + casket	25 miles / then \$3.25 per mile	20\$1,495 18\$2,495	\$625	\$995
All Faiths of the Pines (note 2) 512-237-3836 110 American Legion Rd. Smithville	both lists 01-05-19	\$1,895	\$4,735	\$5,055 + casket	45 miles / then \$3.10 per mile	20\$1,395 18\$2,995	\$695	\$1,995
ATX Cremation (note 3) 512-710-1032 8708 S. Congress Ave., Ste. B-270 (Online Arrangements Only) Austin	GPL 03-15-18 CPL N/A	\$1,495 (note 4)	N/A	N/A	25 miles / then \$3.50 per mile	N/A	N/A	N/A
Austin Cremations (note 5) 512-777-1699 1800 Central Commerce Ct., # 800 Round Rock	GPL 09-17-19 CPL N/A	\$967	N/A	N/A	30 miles / then \$3.00 per mile	N/A	N/A	N/A

* **Direct Cremation:** Always ask the funeral provider if the **Crematory Fee** and Refrigeration are **included** in the Direct Cremation charge on the General Price List.

** **Immediate Burial:** Ask if refrigeration charges are added to the charge on the price list, even if burial takes place within 24 hours of death.

note 1: **Affordable Burial & Cremation** charges \$650 for Direct Cremation if forms are completed online; \$775 if forms are completed in their office.

note 2: The three **All Faiths** funeral homes in the FCACTX service area are owned by [Park Lawn Corporation](#), based in Toronto, Canada.

note 3: **ATX Cremation** and **3 Harrell funeral homes** are under common ownership.

note 4: **ATX Cremation** is an "online only" cremation service of [Angel Funeral Home](#), which, on January 1, 2018, transferred ownership to Harrell Funeral Home.

note 5: **Austin Cremations** is one of 13 funeral providers listed in this survey that are affiliated with Service Corporation International (SCI).

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The survey on our website (www.fcactx.org) has hot links to all funeral providers with websites. 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	One-way mileage radius / Per mile charge beyond radius	Lowest cost 20-gauge metal casket / lowest cost 18-gauge metal casket	FYI: For comparison only (Do not add to costs in other columns) Embalming option	FYI: For comparison only (Do not add to costs in other columns) Basic Services Fee
Austin Natural Funerals 512-851-1236 2206 W. Anderson Ln. Austin	both lists 10-12-19	\$1975	\$5,140	\$6,695 + casket	25 miles / then \$3.00 per mile	20\$1,595 18\$2,795	\$795	\$2,295
Austin-Peel & Son Funeral Home (note 6) 512-419-7224 607 E. Anderson Ln. Austin	GPL 08-23-19 CPL 08-16-19	\$2,140	\$3,865	\$5,465 + casket	25 miles / then \$3.25 per mile	20\$1,095 18\$2,595	\$795	\$1,995
Bastrop Providence Funeral Home 512-308-9188 2079 Hwy. 71 East. Bastrop	both lists 08-21-19	\$2,090	\$3,343	\$5,560 + casket	50 miles / then \$2.50 per mile	20\$995 18\$2,695	\$895	\$2,895
Beck Funeral Home (note 7) 512-244-3772 15709 RR 620 Austin	GPL 06-01-18 CPL 05-16-19	\$2,685	\$5,185	\$6,670 + casket	25 miles / then \$2.95 per mile	20\$1,295 18\$2,895	\$995	\$2,895
Beck Funeral Home (note 7) 512-259-1610 1700 E. Whitestone Cedar Park								
Beck Funeral Home (note 7) 512-251-3500 4765 Priem Lane Pflugerville								
Condra Funeral Home (note 8) 512-352-3636 503 Talbot St. Taylor	both lists 11-11-19	\$2,675	\$5,690	\$7,085 + casket	50 miles / then \$3.00 per mile	20\$1,795 18\$2,395	\$1,095	\$2,995
Cook-Walden Funeral Home (note 8) 512-454-5611 6100 N. Lamar Austin	both lists 09-17-19	\$3,270	\$6,690	\$9,535 + casket	35 miles / then \$3.50 per mile	20\$1,795 18\$2,395	\$995	\$5,325
Cook-Walden/Capital Parks (note 8) 512-251-4118 14501 N. IH-35 Pflugerville	both lists 09-17-19	\$3,270	\$6,990	\$9,535 + casket	35 miles / then \$3.50 per mile	20\$1,795 18\$2,395	\$995	\$5,325
Cook-Walden Chapel of the Hills (note 8) 512-335-1155 9700 Anderson Mill Rd. Austin	both lists 09-17-19	\$3,270	\$6,490	\$9,150 + casket	35 miles / then \$3.50 per mile	20\$1,795 18\$2,395	\$995	\$4,940
Cook-Walden/Forest Oaks (note 8) 512-892-1172 6300 W. William Cannon Dr. Austin	both lists 09-17-19	\$3,270	\$6,490	\$9,150 + casket	35 miles / then \$3.50 per mile	20\$1,795 18\$2,395	\$995	\$4,940

* **Direct Cremation:** Always ask the funeral provider if the **Crematory Fee** and Refrigeration are **included** in the Direct Cremation charge on the General Price List.

** **Immediate Burial:** Ask if refrigeration charges are added to the charge on the price list, even if burial takes place within 24 hours of death.

note 6: Austin-Peel & Son, Los Angeles Funeral Home, Mission Funeral Home, Mission Serenity Chapel, and A Simple Tradition are under common ownership.

note 7: Ownership records at the Texas Funeral Service Commission indicate Beck Funeral Homes are owned by [Beacon Funeral Partners \(Texas\), LLC](#), based in Leander, TX.

note 8: Condra Funeral Home and all Cook-Walden Funeral Homes are among the 13 funeral providers listed in this survey that are affiliated with Service Corporation International (SCI).

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Cook-Walden Davis Funeral Home (note 9) 512-863-2564 2900 Williams Dr. Georgetown	both lists 09-17-19	\$2,670	\$4,690	\$6,105 + casket	35 miles / then \$3.50 per mile	20\$1,795 18\$2,395	\$995	\$2,540
DeLeon Funeral Home 512-376-6200 110 E. Cedar St. Lockhart	both lists 01-01-20	\$2,800	\$4,190	\$6,205 + casket	30 miles / then \$2.95 per mile	20\$1,195 18\$4,595	\$595	\$2,895
Eeds Funeral Home 512-398-2343 408 S. Main St. Lockhart	GPL 10-01-19 CPL 02-01-19	\$2,600	\$3,895	\$6,041 + casket	25 miles / then \$4.50 per mile	20.... \$1,099 18.... \$1,950	\$650	\$2,350
Elgin Funeral Home 512-281-5697 712 N. Avenue C Elgin	both lists 01-07-19	\$1,445	\$2,820	\$4,080 + casket	35 miles / then \$2.95 per mile	20\$1,095 18\$2,395	\$590	\$1,400
Fuller-Sheffield Funeral Home (note 9) 512-476-9164 2808 E. MLK Jr. Blvd. Austin	both lists 10-02-19	\$995	\$2,990	\$4,785 + casket	25 miles / then \$3.00 per mile	20\$1,695 18\$2,795	\$995	\$1,075
Gabriels Funeral Chapel, The (note 10) 512-869-8888 393 N. IH-35 Georgetown	both lists 08-01-19	\$1,150 (note 10)	\$3,190 (note 10)	\$5,445 + casket (note 10)	40 miles / then \$3.00 per mile	20\$995 18\$2,095	\$1,075	\$1,995
Gipson Pendergrass People's Mortuary (note 11) 512-237-2365 109 N.W. First St. Smithville	both lists & website 09-03-19 (note 11)	\$1,425	\$2,352	\$4,275 + casket (note 11)	25 miles / then \$2.50 per mile	20.. \$1,087.50 18.. \$3,187.50 (note 11)	\$775	\$1,400
Green Cremation and Burial Texas 512-647-2724 10415 Old Manchaca Rd., Ste. 202 937 Reinli St., Ste. 6 Austin	GPL 02-01-20 CPL 12-01-19	\$885	\$2,885	N/A	35 miles / then \$3.00 per mile	N/A	N/A	N/A
Green Cremation Texas 512-942-0750 1019 S. Heatherwilde Blvd. Pflugerville								
Green Cremation Texas 512-580-7415 937 Reinli St., Ste. 6 Austin								

* **Direct Cremation:** Always ask the funeral provider if the **Crematory Fee** and Refrigeration are **included** in the Direct Cremation charge on the General Price List.

** **Immediate Burial:** Ask if refrigeration charges are added to the charge on the price list, even if burial takes place within 24 hours of death.

note 9: **Cook-Walden Davis** and **Fuller-Sheffield Funeral Home** are among the 13 funeral providers in this survey that are affiliated with Service Corporation International (SCI).

note 10: Except when Direct Cremation is selected, **The Gabriels Funeral Chapel** offers a 10% discount on **services (only)** to honorably discharged veterans and their spouses.

note 11: Several charges shown on **Gipson Pendergrass People's Mortuary's** website differ from charges for the same goods or services in the print price lists, even though [the website](#) price lists and the **print** price lists have the **same 09-03-19 effective date**. This survey uses prices from the **print** price lists.

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Harrell Funeral Home (note 12) 512-443-1366 4435 Frontier Trail Austin	both lists 06-01-19	\$2,895	\$4,675	\$6,245 + casket	25 miles / then \$3.50 per mile	20\$1,395 18\$2,795	\$895	\$2,495
Harrell Funeral Home (note 12) 512-382-6543 100 Heritage Dr. & Hwy 290 W. Dripping Springs								
Harrell Funeral Home (note 12) 512-268-8200 1715 Kirby near FM 2770 & Kohlers Crossing Kyle								
Heart of Texas Cremation 512-243-7277 12010 Hwy. 290 W., Ste. 210 Austin	GPL 02-18-19 CPL N/A	\$595	N/A	N/A	(note 13)	N/A	N/A	N/A
King-Tears Mortuary 512-476-9128 1300 E. 12th St. Austin	GPL 10-24-12 CPL 01-19-07	\$1,940	\$3,690	\$4,910 + casket	30 miles / then \$1.95 per mile	20\$1,195 18\$2,895	\$895	\$1,950
Legends Funeral Home 512-256-1220 101-B Centerpoint Rd. San Marcos	GPL 10-05-19 CPL 05-23-19	\$595	\$2,795	\$4,525 + casket	(note 14)	20\$995 18\$1,695	\$725	\$850
Life Celebration by Franklin, A (note 15) 512-365-6000 510 S. Main St. Taylor	GPL 03-25-19 CPL 01-09-07	\$2,390	\$4,410	\$5,300 + casket	30 miles / then \$1.95 per mile	20\$1,195 18\$2,895	\$895	\$1,895
Los Angeles Funeral Home (note 16) 512-392-3676 300 Cheatham St. San Marcos	both lists 08-23-19	\$3,110	\$4,165	\$5,625 + casket	25 miles / then \$3.25 per mile	20\$1,095 18\$2,395	\$750	\$1,895
Marrs-Jones Funeral Home (note 17) 512-237-2425 104 Olive St. Smithville	both lists 12-01-19	\$2,890	\$6,005	\$6,990 + casket	50 miles / then \$3.00 per mile	20\$1,495 18\$3,095	\$1,095	\$2,930
Marrs-Jones-Newby Funeral Home (note 17) 512-321-2576 505 Old Austin Hwy. Bastrop	both lists 12-01-19	\$2,890	\$6,005	\$6,990 + casket	50 miles / then \$3.00 per mile	20\$1,495 18\$3,095	\$1,095	\$2,930

* **Direct Cremation:** Always ask the funeral provider if the **Crematory Fee** and Refrigeration are **included** in the Direct Cremation charge on the General Price List.

** **Immediate Burial:** Ask if refrigeration charges are added to the charge on the price list, even if burial takes place within 24 hours of death.

note 12: All Harrell Funeral Homes and ATX Cremations are under common ownership.

note 13: Heart of Texas Cremation imposes no mileage charges to transfer the deceased to the funeral home when the removal is within their service area, which includes Hays, Travis and Williamson counties. When additional travel is required – more than 20 miles from the funeral home – the additional charge is \$2.75/mi.

note 14: Legends Funeral Home imposes no mileage charges to transfer the deceased to the funeral home when the removal is within their service area, which includes – in the FCACTX service area – Hays and Caldwell counties and the city of Austin. When additional travel is required – more than 25 miles from the funeral home – the additional charge is \$3.00/mi.

note 15: A Life Celebration by Franklin (in Taylor) has a chapel at 1309 E. 12th St. in Austin. As of 02-20-20, this location is not a licensed funeral home establishment.

note 16: Los Angeles Funeral Home, Austin-Peel & Son, Mission Funeral Home, Mission Serenity Chapel, and A Simple Tradition are under common ownership.

note 17: Marrs-Jones and Marrs-Jones-Newby are owned by [Legacy Funeral Group](#), based in Houston.

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McCurdy Funeral Home (note 18) 512-398-4791 105 E. Pecan St. Lockhart	GPL 10-15-18 CPL 08-03-18	\$3,305	\$5,325	\$5,560 + casket	25 miles / then \$2.75 per mile	20.....\$1,195 18.....\$2,995	\$575	\$2,825
Mission (East Side) (note 19) 512-476-4355 1615 E. Cesar Chavez St. Austin	both lists 08-23-19	\$4,110	\$5,465	\$6,095 + casket	25 miles / then \$3.25 per mile	20.....\$1,095 18.....\$2,595	\$795	\$2,195
Mission Serenity Chapel (South Side) (note 19) 512-444-3355 6204 S. First St. Austin	both lists 08-23-19	\$4,110	\$5,465	\$6,585 + casket	25 miles / then \$3.25 per mile	20.....\$1,095 18.....\$2,595	\$795	\$2,695
Neptune Society (note 20) 512-323-0122 911 W. Anderson Ln., Ste. 111 Austin	GPL 04-01-19 CPL N/A	\$2,137	N/A	N/A	50 miles (note 21)	N/A	N/A	N/A
O'Bannon Funeral Home 830-875-5713 210 S. Laurel St. Luling	GPL 02-01-19 CPL 11-21-19	\$2,595	\$3,895	\$6,845 + casket	35 miles / then \$2.95 per mile	20.....\$1,595 18.....\$2,995	\$995	\$2,795
Pennington Funeral Home (note 18) 512-353-4311 323 N. Comanche St. San Marcos	GPL 10-15-18 CPL 07-05-18	\$3,305	\$5,325	\$5,560 + casket	25 miles / then \$2.75 per mile	20.....\$1,195 18.....\$2,495	\$575	\$2,825
Phillips-Upshaw & Richard Funeral Home 512-472-1934 1410 E. 12th St. Austin	GPL 01-01-20 CPL 01-01-18	\$1,445 (note 22)	\$3,520 (note 22)	\$4,970 + casket (note 22)	20 miles / then \$4.25 per mile	20.....\$1,195 18.....\$1,795	\$1,045 (includes 2 days of Refrigeration)	\$1,750
Providence Funeral Home 512-352-5909 807 Carlos Parker Blvd. N.W. Taylor	GPL 10-15-17 CPL 05-17-19	\$2,390	\$3,390	\$5,795 + casket	50 miles / then \$2.50 per mile	20.....\$995 18.....\$2,695	\$995	\$2,995
Providence-Jones Family Funeral Home 512-281-2340 604 Hwy. 95 North Elgin	GPL 04-09-19 CPL 07-05-18	\$1,450	\$2,575	\$4,755 + casket	50 miles / then \$2.50 per mile	20\$975 18\$2,295	\$695	\$1,675
Ramsey Funeral Home (note 23) 512-869-7775 5600 Williams Dr. Georgetown	GPL 03-01-19 CPL 03-01-18	\$999 or \$1,199 (note 24)	\$2,794	\$5,092 + casket	35 miles / then \$2.30 per mile	20\$895 18\$1,995	\$899	\$1,899

* **Direct Cremation:** Always ask the funeral provider if the **Crematory Fee** and Refrigeration are **included** in the Direct Cremation charge on the General Price List.

** **Immediate Burial:** Ask if refrigeration charges are added to the charge on the price list, even if burial takes place within 24 hours of death.

note 18: **McCurdy Funeral Home** and **Pennington Funeral Home** are under common ownership. They use the same General Price List; their Casket Price Lists differ.

note 19: **Mission Funeral Home**, **Mission Serenity Chapel**, **Austin-Peel & Son**, **Los Angeles Funeral Home**, and **A Simple Tradition** are under common ownership.

note 20: **Neptune Society** is one of 13 funeral providers listed in this survey that are affiliated with Service Corporation International (SCI).

note 21: When death occurs beyond a 50-mile radius, **Neptune Society** uses refrigeration and cremation facilities at an SCI funeral home closest to where death occurred.

note 22: **Phillips-Upshaw & Richard:** Add \$145 to charges shown if the deceased is **removed from a residence**.

note 23: At **Ramsey Funeral Home**, families selecting **Cremation Services** may incur a **Family Care Administration Fee** for "extra time and care ... that may be needed to complete any custom/personalization needs a family may require. Including but not limited to: ... Veterans Administration paperwork/filing; arranging for military honors"

note 24: **Ramsey Funeral Home** charges \$999 for **online** Direct Cremation arrangements; otherwise, the Direct Cremation charge is \$1,199.

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The survey on our website (www.fcactx.org) has hot links to all funeral providers with websites. 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	One-way mileage radius / Per mile charge beyond radius	Lowest cost 20-gauge metal casket / lowest cost 18-gauge metal casket	FYI: For comparison only (Do not add to costs in other columns) Embalming option	FYI: For comparison only (Do not add to costs in other columns) Basic Services Fee
Simple Tradition, A (notes 25, 26) 512-477-7495 (no website) 1611 E. Cesar Chavez St. Austin	both lists 02-18-15	\$1,540	\$2,200	\$4,550 + casket	25 miles / then \$2.50 per mile	20\$1,095 18 N/A	\$695	\$1,495
Thomason Funeral Home 512-398-2300 2220 S. Colorado St Lockhart	GPL 04-01-18 CPL 10-01-18	\$2,850	\$3,595	\$5,450 + casket	50 miles / then \$2.50 per mile	20\$1,195 18\$2,495	\$450	\$2,750
Thomason Funeral Home 512-396-2300 2001 RR 12 San Marcos								
Thomason Funeral Home 512-847-2226 14700 RR 12 North Wimberley								
Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home (note 27) 512-452-8811 3125 N. Lamar Austin	both lists 12-05-19	\$3,290	\$4,590	\$6,325	30 miles / then \$3.00 per mile	20\$1,395 18\$2,495	\$995	\$2,345
Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home (note 27) 512-442-1446 2620 S. Congress Ave. Austin	both lists 12-05-19	\$3,290	\$4,590	\$6,325	30 miles / then \$3.00 per mile	20\$1,395 18\$2,395	\$995	\$2,345
Weed-Corley-Fish (Lake Travis) (note 27) 512-263-1511 411 RR 620 South Lakeway								
Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home (note 27) 512-260-8800 1200 S. Bagdad Rd. Leander	both lists 12-05-19	\$2,070	\$4,590	\$6,325	30 miles / then \$3.00 per mile	20\$1,395 18\$2,395	\$995	\$2,345

* **Direct Cremation:** Always ask the funeral provider if the **Crematory Fee** and Refrigeration are **included** in the Direct Cremation charge on the General Price List.

** **Immediate Burial:** Ask if refrigeration charges are added to the charge on the price list, even if burial takes place within 24 hours of death.

note 25: A Simple Tradition, Austin-Peel & Son, Los Angeles Funeral Home, Mission Funeral Home, and Mission Serenity Chapel are under common ownership.

note 26: Phone calls to A Simple Tradition are answered by Mission Funeral Home staff located next door at 1615 E. Cesar Chavez.

note 27: All Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Homes and 9 other funeral providers listed in this survey are affiliated with Service Corporation International (SCI).

Additional Options

- You may wish to consider a **home funeral**, also referred to as a **family-led funeral**. See page 9 for more information about this option.
- aCremation:** Arrangements are made online and by telephone. This business contracts with local mortuary services and crematories to provide all local services. Corporate office/central call center in Mesquite, Texas. Its licensed physical establishment is located in Rockwall, Texas.

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Cost-saving suggestions for consumers

Comparing prices and knowing your rights. The Federal Trade Commission requires funeral providers to give price information over the telephone **and** to give 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 their prices to get your business if they know you are willing to go elsewhere for goods and services. Also, they may not charge you for everything they are allowed by law to charge for.

Reducing final expenses. Choose direct cremation, immediate burial, or a graveside service, 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 located up to 25 miles from the place where a death has occurred. GPLs indicate how far a funeral provider will travel before charging a mileage fee. 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 burial plot 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.

Home 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.

For more information about home funerals in Texas, go to <https://texashomefunerals.com/>; also visit www.homefuneralalliance.org/.

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.

Embalming is not required by law. 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 also for **Immediate Burial**.

Caskets and urns. Comparing funeral home prices for caskets and urns to prices for similar items available from local casket retailers (e.g. [Collier's Affordable Caskets](#) serving FCACTX's 5-county service area) and online sources (e.g., casket and urn companies, www.walmart.com, www.costco.com, and www.amazon.com) can save you money and give you the figures you need to **negotiate a lower price at the funeral home**.

Families wanting a 20-ga. or an 18-ga. casket should be aware that metal caskets with rubber gaskets (sealers) will cost more and only affect **how** the body inside decomposes.

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

Caskets and urns (continued)

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.

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

If desired, you can invite family and friends to write or draw something on the outside of a cremation container or an unfinished wood casket, as is sometimes done at home funerals.

Another way to enhance the appearance of a simple casket is to cover it with a flag, the deceased's favorite quilt, a religious pall, or other cloth.

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 no more 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 services such as:

- arranging a visitation and/or a funeral or memorial service at a location other than the funeral home
- paying with a credit card
- processing insurance policies

Other goods and services sold at funeral homes can increase the cost of a funeral significantly – items such as burial clothing, temporary grave markers, extra viewing and visitation time at the funeral home, alternative casket liners, a crucifix, a flag case, prayer cards, video presentations, use of chairs/awning/artificial grass at the cemetery for a graveside or committal service, release of balloons or doves, permanent grave markers or monuments, and other goods and services.

After-death benefits for veterans and their spouses.

Information about veterans benefits and interment at a National Veterans Cemetery: www.cem.va.gov, or 800-827-1000.

Information for State Veterans Cemeteries (including Central Texas Veterans Cemetery in Killeen): www.glo.texas.gov/vlb/cemeteries/locations/index.html, or 800-252-8387.

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 cemetery on private property can be found online at www.tiltingthescales.com/2019/10/25/dying-to-get-in-cemeteries-on-private-property/.

Avoid 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.

Discuss 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. To document your choices, consider the benefits of completing the two **disposition directives** on the FCACTX website at www.fcactx.org/advance-directive-forms.html: The **Body Disposition Authorization** and the **Appointment for Disposition of Remains**. Contact FCACTX if you would prefer to have the forms mailed or emailed to you.