



Direct Cremation or Burial

Thank you for contacting us for more information about direct cremation or burial. Firstly, let me point out that we are an independent charity of 24 years standing. We offer advice on all things relating to death, dying and funerals, we are not funeral directors.

Direct funerals are a very, very basic service; essentially it is a funeral with no funeral. You have no choice over the time, date or even the crematoria where the cremation takes place. The funeral director simply collects the deceased, organises the paperwork, provides a basic coffin, books the crematorium or cemetery at a time that is convenient for them and carries out the funeral.

There are only a handful of funeral directing companies who specialise in this service; priced near the £1000 bracket (cremation) that you may have heard of. As you may be aware, a quote for a basic, simple funeral from a standard funeral director on the high street will usually be in the region of £3000.

All the funeral directors listed on our website will offer a 'direct' service. However, they do not necessarily have access to crematoria who offer good value, less-popular time slots. Access to these is how the specialist companies get the price down to a thousand pounds. Most good independent undertakers will charge between £1,300 and £1,800 for a direct funeral inclusive of all fees. When you understand that many crematoria charge up to £850 you can appreciate how most funeral directors cannot compete and get their fees near the £1000 bracket.

These specialist companies usually provide a nationwide collection service and their fees might vary slightly depending on the circumstances of the death; Where it has occurred, whether the coroner is involved etc. They may charge extra milage and they will usually charge extra to courier the ashes back to the family if required.

Our helpline receives more requests for information about this type of service than anything else, so you are not alone in considering this option.

Families or individuals choose this route for many different reasons, not just financial. Most are planning a memorial ceremony at a later date.

One last thing. A funeral is considered by many to be an important part of the grieving process. Cutting this out may be what you desire but if you have a family and friends, they might not agree. Please discuss this with everyone to ensure that all your neighbours, friends and extended family are in agreement. If they were not aware that this was your wish they may think your next of kin or executor disrespectful and mean for arranging such a send-off.

Please look at our website for a list of good, flexible funeral directors who will offer a direct service near to you.

The firms who specialise in this are listed below:-

- Simplicita cremations, Lancashire 0800 689 0343
- Click Funerals, Lancashire 0800 566 8266
- Powell and Family, Droitwich and Worcester 0800 033 7737
- Funerals On A Budget, London 0208 819 3469
- BB Funerals, London 0208 441 0176
- Oaklands Funerals, Chichester 01243 773114
- Wessex Funeral Services. 02380 371677
- Oak Funeral Service, Somerset 01984 248006
- Bluebell Funerals Suffolk 01284 277100 or 07557125318
- Andrew Phillips, Malvern (30 miles radius) 01684 564446
- Isca Funeral Services. Exeter – southwest peninsular. 01392 421998
- Express Cremations. Nr Doncaster 0800 2062210
- A Natural Undertaking. Birmingham 0121 4440437 or 07986 423146
- Direct burial service also available at Higher Ground Meadow, Dorset. 01935 891245

Also, Gordon and Alison at Respect in Lincolnshire are now operating a nationwide direct burial service utilising various natural burial sites around the UK. 0800 2062210

If there is anything else you would like to enquire about please phone me. 01962 712690

Regards

Rosie

Mrs R Inman-Cook, Manager NDC charity

