

Collier's Affordable Caskets

Funeral Planning Checklist

We offer this checklist to help with your planning. If we can assist with your casket needs, contact us at affordablecaskets@gmail.com or (512) 821-2755.

Burial Arrangements

- Choose funeral home
- Choose casket source
- Purchase burial plot
- Funeral/service dates/locations
- Coordinate police escort, if needed
- Services of clergy, musicians/singers

Notification of friends and family

- Those in address books
- Social Media friends
- Clubs and organizations
- An obituary
- About charitable donation accounts in lieu of flowers

Funeral Services

- Decide whether the funeral home director or someone else will coordinate the funeral
- Decide location of service(s)
- Decide funeral speakers
- Determine family transportation
- Flower transportation to/from burial

Cost Considerations

Many items are optional.

- Funeral director and staff costs (called the Non-Declinable Fee)
- Transportation of the body from place of death to the funeral home
- Refrigeration of the body
- Body preparation
 - embalming
 - dressing the body
 - placing in the casket
 - makeup
 - hair preparation
- Public viewing at the funeral home
- Conduct of service at the funeral home, graveside, and/or other locations
- Transportation of the body to other viewing/service locations
- Visitors book at the viewing(s)/service(s)
- Thank you cards
- Programs for the service(s)
- Transportation of the body to the location of interment
- Flower transportation
- Family transportation
- State/federal offices if deceased owned a business
- County tax office if a property owner

Post-Burial Considerations

Notify the following as applicable.

- Deceased's attorney and CPA
- Social Security Administration (deceased's benefits and survivor benefits)
- Military and/or Veterans Administration
- Insurance companies
 - life
 - health
 - automobile
 - home/renters/other
 - business
- Banks and credit card companies (including store charge cards)
- Sources of real estate, vehicle, and other loans
- Investment companies holding retirement/investment accounts
- Organizations to which the deceased paid dues or has a membership

Additional Costs

Normally in addition to funeral home charges (\$4000 to \$8000)

- The casket. This can make up much of the additional cost if purchased from a funeral home. Let us help you reduce this cost
- Burial plot
- Opening and closing the grave
- Grave liners during the graveside service
- Cost of an obituary
- Flowers
- Services of clergy or other speakers, musicians
- Cost of police escorts
- Other costs not specifically included by the funeral home in their pricing

Additional Resources and Information

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Texas (FCA~CTX, formerly AMBIS) (<http://fcaambis.org/>)

Funeral Consumers Alliance (national organization) (<http://www.funerals.org/>)

Time Warner Cable News – Austin: Nonprofit helps relieve the stress of funeral arrangements (http://www.twcnews.com/archives/tx/austin/2010/01/24/nonprofit-helps-relieve-the-stress-of-funeral-arrangements-TX_264789.oid.html)