

Funeral Plans

What to ask when buying a pre-paid funeral plan

Planning your funeral now may be the last thing that you want to be thinking about but, when the inevitable happens, some planning in advance can help to ease the emotional and financial strain on friends, family and loved ones at a very difficult time.

The National Association of Funeral Directors believes that funeral plans have an important role to play in terms of helping people to not only plan for and off-set the cost of their funeral, but also to remove some of the uncertainty and distress for families in knowing that they are arranging the funeral that the person who died would have wanted.

Funeral plans come in different shapes and sizes, just like all financial products and it's important to choose one that's right for you. Below is our guide to some of the steps you might wish to take when buying a funeral plan.

Five important steps

- 1. Talk to those closest to you.** Talk about what kind of funeral you would like for yourself. This will ease their uncertainty when the time comes.

Explain that you are considering taking out a funeral plan, as it will be important for them to know this information, and tell them where they will be able to find the plan, when the time comes.

- 2. Talk to a funeral director.** Funeral directors are happy to provide no-commitment advice to help anyone who would like to talk about what kind of funeral they might want and what it could cost.



NAFD members will provide you with a transparent price list to take away. You can even choose to specify a particular funeral director, when taking out your plan, if you find one you feel comfortable with.

- 3. Research funeral plan providers.**

As with any financial purchase, do your research to reassure yourself that you are choosing a provider that's right for you. Funeral planning firms are not regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, however some funeral planning companies volunteer to be self-regulated by the Funeral Planning Authority.

Find out more on their website: funeralplanningauthority.co.uk.



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4. Be Inquisitive. Ask question of the funeral plan provider:

Invested:

- Where will your funds be invested? (Most funeral plans are either invested in trusts or in insurance products)
- How much of the money you invest will be made available for your funeral? Are there management charges or other deductions by the plan seller?

Informed:

- Will the plan provider inform the chosen funeral director that they have been nominated?
- What happens if you move home, or your nominated funeral director stops trading?

Included:

- Is the product guaranteed to cover the full cost of the funeral, at the time of need, or is there a chance there may be a shortfall?
- Can you change your plan? Would there be any charges for doing so?

5. **Take your time.** Do not feel under any pressure to make a decision, until you are satisfied with the answers to your questions and that you have all the information you need to make a decision. Once you've chosen a plan, don't forget to leave the details with your Will, or tell someone close to you where to find it.

For further information

If you do not want to take out a funeral plan you can informally express your wishes, in conversation, or through tools such as our *My Funeral Wishes* leaflet, which the NAFD operates in partnership with Dying Matters. You can find more information on this in our *Guide to Setting Out Your Funeral Wishes*.

Please visit www.nafd.org.uk, email info@nafd.org.uk or call 0121 711 1343.

About the NAFD

For more than 115 years the National Association of Funeral Directors (NAFD) has upheld standards and championed the needs of funeral directors, across the United Kingdom, and the bereaved families they care for.

Established in 1905, the National Association of Funeral Directors represents almost 4,000 UK funeral homes nationwide which, between them, organise about 80% of all funerals held in the UK each year.

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