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Planning Funeral Arrangements IN ADVANCE

A funeral can be pre-paid or pre-funded. Either will reduce the need for your survivors to make decisions at a difficult time.

last minute, it may be difficult to think clearly. Therefore, pre-planning makes sense. Expenses can range from \$5,000 to \$15,000 or higher, depending on the funeral home and the services purchased such as:

- cremation or burial
- transfer of the body from a hospital, nursing home or another country
- embalming
- casket
- service in a funeral home or church

Pre-paying Funeral Expenses A funeral can be pre-paid and the funds held in trust (free of income

tax up to a certain limit). Advise your executor of your plans and/or pre-payment to a funeral home in order to save both unnecessary funeral arrangements and expenses.

By taking care of your funeral in advance you:

- allow time for comparison and cost evaluation
- guard your survivors from the stress of making decisions while grieving

Pre-funding Funeral Expenses One of the best methods to pay for a funeral is to pre-fund as opposed to pre-pay. You can pre-fund the entire cost with a life insurance policy that pays out a tax-free benefit (usually within 30 days), without probate, at death.

Establish the price with the funeral home in a contract, as you will be deferring payment until the time of death. When you have an arrangement with a funeral home made in advance, or do not prepay a funeral the prices can be much higher and reduce the assets one may leave to heirs.