



GUIDE TO *Cremation*

AN EBOOK TO ANSWER YOUR
CREMATION QUESTIONS

Misconceptions about Cremation

Through our experiences at Lake Ridge Chapel & Memorial Designers, we have come to realize there is a huge misconception surrounding cremation.

Whether for or against this practice, many believe that cremation does not, nor cannot, accompany more traditional services, much less the opportunity to see their loved one once more.

It saddens us to think that cremation is viewed by so many, ***including some mass crematories***, as a means of “direct disposal”. In and of itself, cremation is simply another form of disposition, with the ***freedom to encompass the opportunities both for closure and celebration.***





Value of Celebrating Life

As cremation becomes more and more popular, we are left wondering if we, as a society, have **lost sight** of the value in the celebration of life and the closure that a final viewing brings.

It seems as if “direct cremation” has become the easy way out of accepting the finality of death. We have allowed ourselves to **avoid the emotions** that are associated with a final viewing of the physical body that we have known and deeply loved for so many years.

We have personally witnessed how this ‘out of sight, out of mind’ mentality has proven to be a **debilitating error in judgement** for many families.

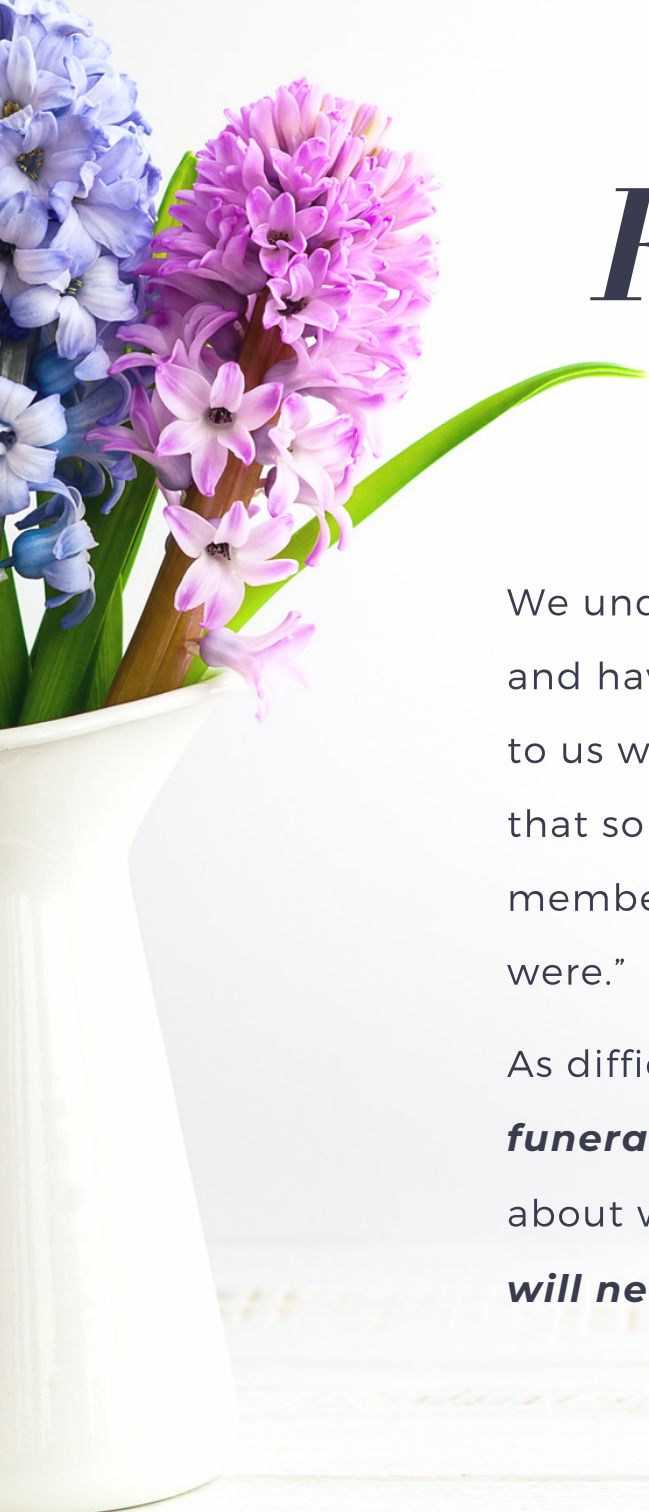
Importance of Closure

Lake Ridge Chapel firmly believes that cremation families deserve the same opportunities that burial families have always been granted.

To bridge this gap, **a viewing prior to cremation is vitally important**, offering the family a private time to say their final goodbyes while providing the peace of mind that a “positive identification” of the loved one can bring.

It has been our experience that this form of closure is **worth its weight in gold**.





Funerals are for the Living

We understand that not everyone feels this need for closure, and have been told so, outright. It has also been expressed to us while assisting individuals in the preplanning process, that some do not desire to be viewed by their family members, in hopes that they will be “remembered as they were.”

As difficult as it may be, it is important that we realize that ***funerals and viewings are for the living.*** It is not always about what we desire, but more so about ***what our family will need*** at the time of our passing.

Gratitude

Many individuals who were once so adamantly against the idea of viewing for identification and closure, after having experienced this opportunity for themselves, find themselves ***overwhelmed with a sense of gratitude.***

As a result, it is not uncommon for these same individuals to begin reaching out to their remaining family members, requesting their attendance as well.





A Story

"I vividly recall the solemn, stoic gentleman who enveloped me in a strong embrace after describing the love of his life as "more beautiful than he had seen her in years". He went on to say that he was "so grateful for the opportunity to see her one last time." Special moments like this have only strengthened the validity of my belief in the importance of final viewings."

- Laura Landes

An Act of Love

This act of love and due diligence should be made available for anyone opting for cremation. It is a ***beautiful opportunity*** for those beginning the journey of hope and healing.

When considering cremation, insist that the “Viewing for Identification” process be a standard part of the services being offered, as well as a time to celebrate the life once lived.

The ***peace of mind*** this opportunity offers pales in comparison to the closure and comfort it will provide for you and for those you love for many years to come.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Is cremation more economical than burial?

Cremation, like burial, is simply a preference of disposition. **Disposition means the manner in which human remains are finally handled.**

Any price differences would be related to the type of memorial service held, any merchandise purchased, and the like. Even these **monetary differences between burial and cremation services are minimal.**



What are the options for what is done with the final remains?

Based on the wishes of you and your family, there are a few options for how to handle final remains.

1

INTERMENT - GROUND
BURIAL

2

INURNMENT -PLACING OF
THE REMAINS IN A NICHE OR
COLUMBARIUM

3

SCATTERING AT A
PLACE OF YOUR
CHOOSING

4

CREATE MEMORIAL
KEEPSAKES SUCH AS JEWELRY,
BLOWN GLASS, POTTERY,
CHARCOAL CANVASES,
TATTOOS, AND DIAMONDS.



Can two urns be buried in the same cemetery plot?

Yes. Most cemeteries will allow two urns to be buried in the same cemetery plot, as well as one urn being buried at the head or foot of a cemetery plot in which a previously deceased family member currently resides.

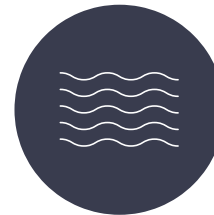
Where can remains be scattered?

Scattering cremated remains is a very personal decision. No matter your wishes for the locations of your scattered remains, it is always best to inquire about local regulations.



PRIVATE PROPERTY

We suggest that if you chose to scatter remains of a loved one on private property, that you obtain the permission of the property owner first.



AT SEA

Remains must be scattered at least three (3) nautical miles from shore.



ON A BEACH

Keep in mind that many states have laws prohibiting this, and you would need to check with local authorities first.



IN THE MOUNTAINS

Best practices here would say it is best to stay clear of developed areas.

How long does the cremation process take?

The cremation process itself is completed anywhere between 3 ½ and 5 hours.

The authorization and paperwork processes add additional time. Most cremations can be completed within 3 to 5 days.





WHAT OTHER QUESTIONS DO YOU
HAVE ABOUT CREMATION?

[click here](#)

***Can the physical
body be present
at the service if
cremation is
chosen?***

Yes. You can still have the comforts and closure of a traditional service when choosing cremation.

***Can someone be
embalmed if they
are going to be
cremated?***

Yes. Embalming does not have any effect on the cremation process.

Individuals desiring a viewing will choose to embalm before cremation.



Is cremation an accepted form of disposition within the Catholic Religion?

Yes. However, according to church doctrine, the cremated remains must then be buried in order to fulfill the wishes of the church. The church does prefer that the body be present at the mass and then cremated once services are concluded. However, if this is not feasible for economic or circumstantial reasons, then they request that the urn containing the cremated remains be present. Other religious groups such as Orthodox Jews and Muslims forbid the cremation practice.

How do I choose between burial or cremation?

Not many people have spent very much time considering this question. In addition to your own wishes and beliefs, often we desire the counsel of other family members as well.

Here are a few starter questions to help you begin to process your wishes.

1

WHY ARE YOU CONSIDERING BURIAL? DOES IT HAVE ANY DOWNSIDES?

2

WHY WOULD YOU CONSIDER CREMATION? ARE THERE ANY DOWNSIDES FOR YOU OR YOUR FAMILY?

3

HOW DO BOTH OF THESE OPTIONS MAKE YOU *FEEL* WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT THEM?

4

HOW DOES CONSIDERING BOTH OF THESE OPTIONS MAKE YOUR *FAMILY FEEL*?

What is water cremation?

Water Cremation (also referred to as Bio Cremation and Aquamation), is another name for a process officially termed as Alkaline Hydrolysis. This is a flameless cremation process using water, potassium hydroxide, heat and pressure, resulting in cremated remains similar in color and texture to those of traditional cremation methods.

Alkaline Hydrolysis, in essence, speeds up the natural decomposition process which occurs during burial, and is said to be more environmentally friendly than traditional cremation practices. This being said, Alkaline Hydrolysis is not legal or readily available in all states. Minnesota was the first to legalize this method of cremation in 2017 with 14 other states following suit soon after. **Texas has as of yet to legalize this practice.**

What happens to any jewelry worn by the deceased?

Jewelry or other similar items may be placed on the deceased for viewing purposes but should be returned to the family prior to cremation or placed in the urn immediately after cremation. Metal items are melted down during the cremation process and cannot be recovered.





What is "Right of Disposition" and "Authorization to Cremate"?

Upon death, the decedent's next-of-kin reserves the Right of Disposition and has the Authorization to Cremate. Powers of Attorney cease upon death and executors, who are not considered legal next of kin, hold no authority if the decedent has blood relatives still living.



Who is considered next-of-kin?

Because each situation is unique, we suggest consulting a funeral professional when attempting to establish "legal next of kin" and who has or will have the legal Right of Disposition.

However, Next-of-Kin, by law, states that legal next-of -kin proceeds in the following order: spouse, children (all share this equally no matter their age) parents, siblings, grandchildren, and on to nieces and nephews.

Can I put a "Right of Disposition" in place, granting authority to someone who is not my next-of-kin?



Yes. There are forms which grant the Right of Disposition to the person of your choosing, who is not your next of kin.



However, the legal next-of-kin may still dispute this right through a court of law if they so choose, delaying the cremation process.



When services and legal arrangements have been pre-selected and pre-funded, in most cases, the wishes of the deceased are much more likely to be honored.



How can I ensure my own Right of Disposition, should I choose cremation?


While there is no sure way to legally ensure your own right of disposition, there are ways in which legal and binding documents can assist you in this endeavor. When services have been pre-selected and pre-funded, in most cases, the wishes of the deceased are honored.

Because any person disputing these wishes would then be held financially responsible for any additional expenses or any changes made to the pre-existing contract, most often, the preplanned funeral services are carried out as stated in the prearranged contract.



*SET UP A PRE-NEED
APPOINTMENT*

[Click here](#)

The background of the image is a dark, muted teal or slate blue. It features soft, out-of-focus pink flowers, likely from a verbena plant, which are in bloom. One cluster of flowers is prominent on the right side, while another is partially visible at the top center. The lighting is soft, creating a gentle contrast between the pink petals and the dark background.

CREMATION WITH CONFIDENCE

1. Your loved one never leaves our care.

Many funeral homes hire third-party crematories, typically located in a warehouse district. Your loved one is transferred to outside cremation services, making it impossible for the funeral home to manage and supervise the cremation.

We have our **on-site crematory** located within our funeral home, nestled in a peaceful setting down the hall from our chapel. All your services are handled and managed by our certified staff, and **your loved one never leaves our care.**



2. Safeguarding personal identity.

A Witness of Removal document is signed upon transfer into our care to verify your loved one's identity. **To ensure security**, a personal identification band is placed on your loved one to track them through the cremation process.



3. Family identification

Upon arrival, our staff will bathe and dress your loved one in the clothes provided by the family. Then, we will ask you, or a representative, to positively identify him or her prior to cremation in our private viewing room. During this time, we will give your family a few moments to say your final goodbyes.



4. Verify identity

We use state-of-the-art technology to verify your loved one's identity through a barcoding system that **tracks them throughout the entire cremation process**. In addition, we have a closed circuit camera system that records the entire process from before your loved one enters the crematory until the cremation process is complete.



5. Checks and balances.

A cremation specialist and a staff member will review all cremation paperwork and permits. This is to ensure authorizations and permits have been received and properly documented.

Once verified, both staff members must sign the cremation order before starting the cremation process. Your loved one is taken to the cremation chamber, and their personal identification is put in our digital cremation system prior to the cremation process.

The name of the individual, date and time of the cremation, identification number and crematory operator's name is entered. Our digital cremation system is dated and the start time is noted and signed by a cremation specialist before and after the cremation.

6. Details before cremation.

Our memorial designers will sit down and discuss with your family the desired level of participation during the cremation process. Our spacious Ceremonial Room allows families to **witness the full cremation process if so chosen.**





7. Details during the cremation.

The crematory checklist, the barcode, and tag are placed on the outside of the cremation chamber during the cremation process, all under **constant video surveillance** to preserve the identity of your loved one.

8. Details after the cremation.

After the cremation is complete, the cremated remains are placed with the identification tag into a wooden urn engraved with your loved one's name.

Your loved one's fingerprint, the video feed, and documentation are placed into our permanent files.





9. Return of the cremated remains.

Our staff will notify you to schedule a time for receipt of the cremated remains. At this time, we will provide a dignified setting, in which to receive the urn, where you may spend a few moments, privately, in quiet reflection.



*WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE
A TOUR?*

Schedule one here



10. Celebration of life.

We will assist in planning a memorial service either before or after the cremation, which will appropriately celebrate the life of your loved one. Families have many opportunities to personalize the service, from a dove release to a reception where refreshments are served. A meaningful ceremony provides an opportunity for family and friends to pay tribute to your loved one and to share the memories of a lifetime.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR CREMATION



What are your plans for your remains?

Over the years, we've encountered a lot of pre-need families who have wishes to be cremated but do not have any plans for the remains. Talk through your wants and wishes with your family.



*DOWNLOAD OUR HELPFUL
PRE-PLANNING GUIDE*

Click here





Be sure and consider the thoughts and wishes of your loved ones.

Your family loves you and wants the best for you, now and always. Take time to consider their thoughts and feelings. Burial plots at cemeteries can provide a feeling of permanence. They can also provide a feeling of distance if your family is spread out across a wide variety of places.

Each family has special and unique circumstances. Take time to consider yours.

Cremation is just a form of disposition

It may seem when you're planning a cremation that there isn't much to decide. In fact, the opposite is true. Most cremations have just as many decisions to make as a burial because most decisions actually revolve around the memorial service.



Authorization for Cremation

The "Next of Kin" as defined by your state of residence, whoever this is at time of death, has the right of disposition, unless otherwise authorized in an Advance Directive.



CLICK TO DOWNLOAD:
Texas Advance Directive Form

Having a pre-need contract in place helps with this because it is a legal and binding document.



SET UP FOR A PRE-NEED
APPOINTMENT
Click here





Thank You

Thank you for taking the time
to read our cremation guide.

We're here to assist you at any time, whenever
you're ready.

I'm Ready