

Cremation

Know your options



Cremation is an increasingly popular choice in Minnesota. If you choose cremation, you will have several decisions to make to honor your loved one.

Viewing & service options

If you are planning a memorial service, you can choose whether to hold it before or after cremation.

Cremation with private family viewing

Immediate family members can view their loved one's body before cremation. Viewing is generally done at the funeral home typically with very little preparation to the body and no embalming.

Cremation with a public viewing

Family members can also have a public viewing at a variety of locations, such as a funeral home or church. Most often, these viewings involve embalming the body.

Cremation with a memorial service

Family members can choose to have a memorial service before cremation or after cremation with or without the cremated remains present.

Cremation choices

There are two types of cremation in Minnesota. Most funeral homes use both methods and will ask which you prefer. Both produce similar ash remains that you can choose to bury, scatter, or keep in your home.

FLAME CREMATION

This type of cremation uses heat and flames.

ALKALINE HYDROLYSIS

This type of cremation uses water, chemicals, and heat. It puts fewer substances into the air and is considered a more environmentally friendly option.

Cremated remains

Once the cremation is complete, the family or authorized agent can choose to have the cremated remains buried or take them home. Usually, the next of kin is the only person authorized to take possession of the remains. Minnesota allows for scattering of remains.

For more information

MDH Mortuary Science:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/hpsc/mortsci>



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