

State by State Indigent Care

Indigent refers to someone who suffers from financial insecurity or is considered impoverished. It means they have passed without leaving a determinable estate sufficient to pay part or all of final disposition (a cremation or burial).

A full state by state chart:

<https://www.us-funerals.com/social-assistance-funeral-programs/>

Alabama Procedure varies from county to county. Each Dept of Human Services provides Minimal assistance: \$400 According to Alabama law, each county needs to pay the necessary burial expenses or funeral costs of someone who has died in the county if they don't have financial means.

Arkansas

For income qualified individuals, we offer a \$690 cremation that does not include death certificates Or \$2690 direct burial includes removal, minimal casket, O/C (\$500). We can provide a concrete liner (\$675) and cemetery set up for an additional \$1355. Tax, death certificates, and local cemetery plots (\$250) are not included.

50 mile radius. Anything further is \$2 per mile loaded.

Madison County Funeral Service is rural in the northwest corner of Arkansas, just off Highway 412 in Huntsville, Arkansas. Our current reach is Benton, Carroll, Boone, Washington, Madison, Newton, Crawford, Franklin, and Baxter counties.

Owner/operator Doug Rabold is a licensed funeral director, embalmer, crematory operator, and the Madison County Coroner. In 2015, he founded Madison County Funeral Service based on one thing--SERVICE. Doug has listened to the members of our communities and found three consistent concerns:

-First of all, families like to meet with someone in person to make arrangements. We offer email, paper applications, or phone consultations. We can set an appointment at the family's home, church, or our facility

-Second, we never deny the family the opportunity to be able to see their loved one for the last time. Our cremation process is performed locally here in Northwest Arkansas. The body is typically held at our facility until the paperwork is ready to perform the cremation. We give them the peace of mind they are in our care throughout the entire process.

-Finally, the largest concern is the financial aspect. Many families are not prepared for the pay in full only option from other funeral homes after a loss. We now provide in-house financing for families with reasonable terms. Families can pay these services out for six months up to one year.

Joanna VanBrunt, Family Service Counselor, NPN 17840513, Apprentice Funeral Director, 25745

Madison County Funeral Service
Ozark Cemetery Care
Rabold Crematory
479-738-2400

California

The Welfare and Institutions Code (CAL. HSC. CODE § 7100) specifies that next-of-kin is financially responsible for the disposition of the decedent's body. The exception to this is in the case where the decedent is indigent and the family is also indigent. Each county has their own indigent burial and/or cremation program:

Bakersfield/Kern County Instructions:

https://www.kernsheriff.org/Coroner_Document/Indigent_Cremation_Information.pdf

Stanislaus County:

Richard Navaro 209-602-5636 from Dept of aging is looking for answers as to help for seniors who don't have funds for even a direct cremation (he is trying to use the San Joaquin website to help find info for seniors).

Santa Barbara County has an indigent fund that provides cremation and burial at sea for qualified applicants. An application and financial statement are required to determine eligibility. For more information:

Santa Barbara County
(805) 346-8337 (Santa Maria)
(805) 568-2790 (Santa Barbara) [Website](#)

Ventura County has an indigent fund that will pay for a basic cremation, but only if the family qualifies. If the decedent was a veteran who honorably served our country, then cremains can be sent to and interred at the Riverside National Cemetery at no cost to the decedent or their family.

The qualification process is very thorough and requires that each family member complete, sign, and include supporting documentation for an indigent application. Supporting documentation includes all recent bank statements and proof of relationship. The approval process can take from several days to a couple of weeks.

For more information:

County of Ventura
800 S. Victoria Ave.
(805) 654-3141

Los Angeles County has an indigent fund for cremation only. Note that cremation through the program may take up to 2 months and in order for the family to receive the

cremated remains, a fee ranging from ~\$350 to ~\$470 is charged; the family has up to 2 years to claim the cremated remains. If the family does not pick up the cremated remains within 2 years, there is no charge and the cremated remains are buried in a common grave. This program provides the indigent with a very low-cost cremation option and gives them time to save money to pay for it.

LA County Coroner's Office (only if the coroner is involved):

(323) 343-0512

LA County Morgue (only if the coroner is not involved):

(323) 409-7161

Here is another very interesting page (Tulipcremation.com) that gives even more details about applying for state funded memorial service: <https://tinyurl.com/3zxc8jf2>

Orange County has a General Relief fund which may be used for the burial or cremation of a deceased. To be eligible for General Relief, you must be a U.S. citizen or legal alien who resides in Orange County and must meet certain income and property requirements as well as other criteria. Applications must be submitted in person.

For more information:

Orange County Social Services Agency

Central Regional Center

2020 W. Walnut St.

Santa Ana, CA. 92703

714-834-8899 [Website](#)

Idaho

UtahFunerals.org provides an Idaho price survey for the southeast corner of Idaho which includes the Idaho body donor program at the Idaho State University.

Kentucky

Catholic Charities Main brochure for people in need:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-PGWUiDuKJBT5t0zowRTUX_6zFrQ_rw3/edit

Docent Brochure:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OCyILUG4UVFk6LYMQOgijgfWux_-wxVh/edit

Massachusetts

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/who-can-apply-for-funeral-and-burial-payments-assistance> If the deceased was a recipient of state benefits through

MassHealth, the funeral director can apply for state funds of

\$1,100. Application:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/application-for-funeral-and-final-disposition-benefit-ffd-1/download> The family may contribute \$2,400 more for a total of \$3,500.

There is no other organization that assists with costs.

The FD who used to take on the indigent funerals in Eastern Mass died himself in 2023. He was the FD who buried the Tsarnaev brother, responsible for the Boston Marathon bombing, when no other funeral director would step forward to bury him.

In any case, there is some money Mass. will provide to a funeral director to bury a person with no assets at all, when the family, if there is one, can prove the decedent had no assets. However the amount of money is insufficient and frequently fails to materialize. Therefore FDs are understandably unwilling to take on indigent cases.

Michigan

Here is one idea on making up the difference so that you can afford a cremation:

<https://dhhs.michigan.gov/olmweb/ex/ER/Public/ERM/306.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0Y1AEoKSO42UPEXV4sVlcg9uy6XXjgcyOLKtGFIQXnrDZhXDyfa1EHndM>

and this has a section on page three that addresses getting enough funds to pay for cremation:

https://www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/lara/cscl/Folder4/Bulletin_-_Embalm ing_and_Final_Disposition.pdf?rev=223305ba57bc43caa69e5fb706538733&fbclid=IwAR3YmsaM7Pg3j-aHQDhD-bbXxIsV1ON-CwXK2QJs9itgim8Gv8IIStMZXcw

And if he was on Social Security this may help:

https://pocketsense.com/social-security-ssi-pay-funeral-expenses-8676.html?fbclid=IwAR0SDRzqut7EDghcc_pAa89pGftaDkfPF5OyCyyegUjtLhDQixPGlc-S-rM

New York

Invaluable resource for NYer's (includes help for non-residents "Control or command +F" to find in document:

<https://www.citybarjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Guide-Funeral-Burial-Options-in-NY-ENGLISH.pdf>

Ohio

<https://www.ohiotownships.org/news/reminder-indigent-burial-fund>

Pennsylvania

In Lancaster County, PA all the individuals who die without any money are handled by the coroner's office. There are 40 every year. They are cremated for \$400 each paid by the coroner out of his county budget.

The Roman Catholic Church donates one burial plot in their cemetery. Each box of cremains (40 boxes), with the decedent's name on it, is neatly stacked in the grave. It is then filled in.

If a mourner (high school sweetheart) wants to visit the grave, they know where in the Catholic cemetery to go from the Cemetery administrator.

The Lampeter Green Burial Ground in "Bird in Hand", Lanc. County., PA accepts "simple burials" (hand dug shroud burials without a funeral director). If no survivors or money, the Cemetery pays \$50 each to two Amish teenagers to dig the grave. The required

depth under PA Health Dept. rules is 24 inches of soil over the deceased, which comes to three feet. But, the Amish boys do not stop at three feet. They like to dig.
see quakergreenburials.org

Burial without a funeral director, which we call simple burial, has been accepted practice in PA since the Burial Ground opened in 1749. Our cemetery is re-burying over those who died 1749-1849. Their bones have disappeared. Nevertheless most simple burials are in farm burial plots. In Germany, reburial happens at 25 or 33 years, depending on the cemetery. The bones are set aside to a dug out area on the side. (I, David Morrison, has visited and asked.)

In the southern end of the county, the cemetery committee chair arranges for the digging of the grave for paupers . A local funeral director donates the digging cost. We do not have a paupers cemetery like in Del. County., PA, years ago.

Donating bodies to medical schools is expensive in PA. The med schools are fussy. No cancer or communicative diseases. Full med file. Must be through a funeral director (\$700 several years ago). Prefer 90 year olds in good health (natural death). Homeless not accepted so Coroner takes them.

David R. Morrison, Atty. at Law (ret) and Trustee (Mike Kinch is the other trustee).

Utah

UtahFunerals.org has a financial aid page that is kept current with all the available resources for finding money and reducing costs for free.