

2.14	Funeral Expenses and Planning	Page 1 of 2
Issue date: 12/99	Revision date: n/a	Division Staff
Form(s): None		

It is the responsibility of the **Person** and/or the family (guardian) to make decisions about a **Person's** funeral expenses and the money available to pay for them. Encourage the **Person** to contact reputable funeral home for information about prepaid burial plans. Making appropriate arrangements prior to the death of the **Person** and involving the religious community when appropriate may help the transition when the death occurs.

Procedure

1. Preplanning issues:
 - a. Get input from **Person** and/or the family (guardian).
 - b. Ensure that age appropriate or advance plans are discussed.
 - c. **Support Coordinator** and **Provider** should collaborate to ensure the **Person** and/or the family (guardian) issues are known.

2. Possible funding resources for funeral expenses:
 - a. Any money left by the deceased **Person** should be used first to pay any outstanding debts/bills and the balance of funds should be used to pay toward funeral expenses.
 - b. Social Security Income has a \$255 payout for burial expenses based on amount paid in through earnings that can be applied.
 - c. Review family resources.
 - d. Families (guardians) may be able to negotiate with the local funeral home to discount fees and costs of the funeral.
 - e. Indigent burial fund at local county/community level.
 - f. Insurance death benefits.
 - g. Prepaid burial plans.
 - h. The **Regions** will provide \$500 towards funeral expenses only as a last option. Requests and permission to use this money must be pre-approved by the **Region** Director.
 - i. For individuals who have no immediate family and for whom burial arrangements have not been pre-planned, the **Division** may provide funds to assure dignified services and interment.

3. In the event that the person is indigent, cremation is the least expensive method. Each county within the state of Utah will provide cremation services at no cost to the family in the event there is no money. Contact needs to be made through the local county government to find out which office in that county will take care of this and what the specific requirements are. The local mortuary may have a contract locally with the county. Call to find the right **Person** who can assist with this process.

The average cost for a cremation is between \$900 to \$1100.

- a. Generally, if no one requests the ashes, the crematorium/funeral home will dispose of them.
- b. Ashes are given to the family or whoever requests them (may be in a vinyl bag), whoever picks them up can retain, scatter or dispose of them as they wish.

- c. If the ashes are to be "buried" in a cemetery, there will be additional expenses for a vault.
 - d. No casket is necessary if the cremation takes place right away.
5. When **Person** does not have any family involvement:
- a. The **Support Coordinator** should address the wishes of the **Person**/guardian.
 - b. **Support Coordinators** may want to discuss this with the family while the family is still involved.