

Family Matters

The Benefits Of Advanced Funeral Planning

(NAPSA)—A growing number of people are finding both emotional and financial security in something that is also an important part of estate planning. They are preplanning their funeral.

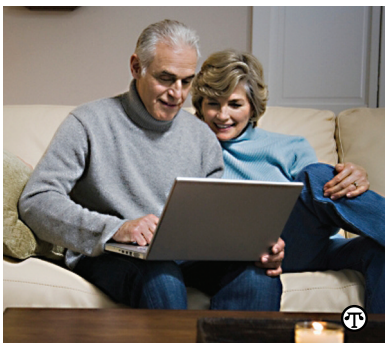
Many are also finding that taking advantage of what preplanning has to offer may be easier if they do their homework about what they may want and the options available before they sit down with the experts.

Although some people may find it hard to talk about advance planning, it can be harder on your family if you don't talk about your wishes for your final arrangements. One way to tackle planning without feeling overwhelmed is to break up the process into more manageable steps.

Memorial or Funeral Service—Focus on the type of service you would want and how you can personalize that service, whether it's more traditional, somber or a unique celebration of your life. Decide if it should be a more intimate or larger gathering and consider music, readings or any other unique element to personalize the service.

Burial or Cremation—If burial is your preference, consider purchasing a cemetery plot in advance. If you decide on cremation, remember to make plans for permanent placement of the cremated remains. Consider a mausoleum or columbarium to give your family a physical place for visitation and reflection. This also prevents the possibility of the ashes being misplaced or discarded in later years if kept with a family member.

Select a Funeral Home—Compare the options available and the quality of service provided. With the right funeral



Experts say that preplanning your funeral is something that can benefit both you and your family.

provider, you can feel more confident that your wishes will be fulfilled and you won't feel uncomfortable asking questions or rushed into making selections.

Funding Options—One advantage of prearranging your funeral is that you can lock in today's prices for products and services that may be more expensive in the future. It's best to work with a professional to understand the particular laws and regulations that protect those funds.

Flexibility—Remember, not all providers offer the same services. For example, if you use a Dignity Memorial provider to prearrange your funeral or cremation service, you can enjoy the security of National Transferability of Prearranged Services. Should you move more than 75 miles from where your original arrangements were made, your prearranged funeral services are fully transferable and will be honored by any Dignity Memorial provider throughout North America.

For more information or to start preplanning arrangements, visit the Web site at www.dignitymemorial.com.