

TERMINOLOGY

Alkaline Hydrolysis (Water Cremation)—is an alternative method of final disposition for human remains. This process uses a combination of water, heat, and alkaline chemicals to accelerate the natural decomposition of the body. Alkaline hydrolysis is considered a more environmentally friendly alternative to traditional cremation, as it uses less energy and produces fewer emissions.

Body Disposition—refers to the final handling or arrangement of a deceased person's body following death. It involves the process of deciding what will be done with the body, such as burial, cremation, donation to medical science, or other methods.

Cremains—refers to the ashes or cremated remains of a deceased person that have undergone the cremation process. After a body is cremated, the organic matter is reduced to bone fragments through intense heat. These bone fragments are then further processed into a finer, powdery form.

Direct Burial—refers to a funeral arrangement in which the deceased person's body is interred or buried shortly after death without a formal funeral service or viewing. In a direct burial, there is typically no embalming or elaborate ceremonies involved. Instead, the body is placed in a casket and directly interred in the ground. This type of burial is often chosen for its simplicity and cost-effectiveness.

Direct Cremation—refers to a funeral arrangement in which the body of the deceased person is cremated shortly after death without a traditional funeral service or viewing. In a direct cremation, there is typically no embalming, and the cremation takes place without a formal ceremony. The ashes (cremated remains) are then usually returned to the family. Direct cremation is often chosen for its simplicity and cost-effectiveness. Families may opt for this type of arrangement if they prefer to have a memorial service or celebration of life at a later date or in a different location. It allows for flexibility in planning memorial events and can be a more straightforward option compared to traditional funeral services.

Embalming—refers to a process of temporarily preserving a deceased body, typically for the purpose of public viewing during a funeral or visitation. The primary goal of embalming is to slow down the decomposition process and to restore a more lifelike appearance to the body. It involves the use of chemicals, primarily formaldehyde, along with other preservatives and disinfectants.

Home Funeral—also known as a family-directed funeral or a home-based funeral, refers to a practice where family members and friends take an active role in caring for the deceased person's body and arranging the funeral or memorial service within the home. In a home funeral, the process is often more hands-on and personalized compared to traditional funeral practices conducted by funeral homes.

Keepsake Urn—is a smaller-sized urn designed to hold a portion of a deceased person's cremated remains. These urns are often used to distribute or share a loved one's ashes among family members or friends. Keepsake urns come in various designs, materials, and styles, and they can be used as a personal and meaningful way to remember and honor the deceased. People may choose to keep these smaller urns at home, display them, or use them to create memorial jewelry or other keepsakes.

Natural Organic Reduction—also known as human composting or recomposition, is an eco-friendly and innovative method of handling human remains after death. This process involves the accelerated decomposition of the body into nutrient-rich soil through the assistance of microbes and controlled environmental conditions. Natural organic reduction is considered a more environmentally friendly option compared to traditional burial and cremation methods. It minimizes the environmental impact associated with conventional burial practices and can contribute to soil enrichment.

Witness Cremation—is a funeral arrangement in which family members, friends, or other individuals are present to observe the actual cremation process of a deceased person. This practice allows those close to the deceased to be present during the beginning stages of the cremation, providing them with the opportunity to witness the casket being placed in the cremation chamber and, in some cases, the initiation of the cremation itself.

The specifics of witness cremations can vary based on the policies and facilities of the crematorium, as well as local regulations. Some crematoriums have designated viewing areas adjacent to the cremation chamber, allowing family members to witness the process directly. In other cases, observation may occur through windows or via closed-circuit television.

The option for witness cremation is intended to provide a more personal and transparent experience for those who wish to be more involved in the final stages of their loved one's

disposition.

Casket vs. Coffin—the terms "casket" and "coffin" are often used interchangeably. The technical difference is the shape:

- **Casket:** Caskets have a rectangular shape with four sides and a hinged lid.
- **Coffin:** Coffins have a more tapered, hexagonal or octagonal shape. They are wider at the shoulders, gradually narrowing towards the feet, and typically have a hinged lid.

Cemetery vs. Graveyard—the terms "cemetery" and "graveyard" are often used interchangeably. Both are burial grounds but graveyard specifically refers to a cemetery located next to or in the "yard" of a church.