

4 Pro Tips for Saving Money on Funerals

Tip #1 Direct Burial or Direct Cremation

If a formal viewing is not important for you or your loved ones, direct burial or direct cremation may be a good choice. You will skip the expenses involved with both embalming and the viewing. Of course, you should still have a funeral or memorial service to let people gather, connect, and grieve together. You would simply do so without the body present.

Tip #2 Provide Clothing for Viewings

If you or your loved ones would prefer the viewing, make sure to provide the funeral home with clothing, including undergarments. Reports show that funeral homes charge anywhere from \$100-\$500 on clothing. Avoid that cost completely by pre-selecting an outfit that will work best for the funeral.

Tip #3 Plan a Morning or Mid-Morning Service

Believe it or not, funeral services are actually less expensive before 3 PM. After 3 PM is prime time for funerals, and the demand increases the cost significantly. Whenever possible, try to keep the services planned for the earlier hours to reduce the rental costs of the venue.

Tip #4 Forgo Fancy Flowers

Fancy flower arrangements can cost as much as \$650. You might be able to save some money by choosing simpler arrangements, or less expensive flowers. Sometimes, letting the funeral home order the flowers at cost can also save you money. Remember, many people will send flower arrangements as condolences, and it might be simpler and cheaper to just display those arrangements during the services.