

2009 General Price Survey of Vermont Funeral Homes, 12/09

The Funeral Consumers Alliance of Vermont (FCA-VT) provides this biennial price survey of all Vermont funeral homes and crematories to aid consumers when planning needed services. Our intent is to notify consumers of the cost differentials available around Vermont, to track price increases, and to note whether or not the information provided reflects compliance with both the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Rules and Vermont Statutes. **As compared to prices in the 2007 survey, a simple burial went up 13% and direct cremation 15% in two years, more than double the general inflation rate of 3% x 2 = 6%.** Comparisons are available on the last page of the survey. Because prices change frequently, and those listed reflect the lowest and most basic services, consumers should receive a full written contract stating all costs agreed to by both parties, prior to service provision, as mandated by the FTC and VT Statutes. We highly recommend that consumers access the flyer, "How to read a Funeral Price List (GPL)", from www.funerals.org. Click on "FUNERAL FAXs" at the top left hand corner of the Home Page. (A great deal of very valuable information is included in this category on the national web site, all FREE, although donations are appreciated.)

Survey information is listed alphabetically by town, with abbreviations of the names of all funeral homes. For information on the business establishment's full name and contact information, link to an industry web site, www.fsnfuneralhomes.com, click on Vermont, and the town listed in our survey with the homes you wish to contact. (Note: Not all businesses have web sites or price lists on line at this time so you may need to check your local phone directory. We will have a more regional break down of services available soon.)

Here is a list of abbreviated service categories and very basically, what they stand for:

Basic Fee: Nondeclinable overhead and basic service fee applied to ALL totals.

Embalming: See flyer. Not required for **immediate** cremation or burial.

OPB: Other Body Preparation. Dressing and casketing, typically done for an open-casket viewing.

Viewing: Also called visitation or calling hours, with or without a casket present.

Funeral: The actual service with the casket present.

Transfer: Pick up of the body at the place of death and transport to the funeral home.

Hearse: Use of this vehicle, if available, to transfer to the church or cemetery.

Limo/sedan: Use of specific vehicles for family.

Service vehicle: Use of alternative vehicle sometimes used to deliver flowers or pick up clergy.

TOTAL OF ALL SERVICES ABOVE THIS LINE—ADDITIONAL CHARGES BELOW THIS LINE.

Caskets: Most basic model or alternative container.

Vaults: Outer container required by many cemeteries to prevent cave ins.

Burial: Plus cost of casket.

Graveside: Service in the cemetery. Typically, this is charged when there are no other services. A "committal" after a full-service funeral may have no extra charge, although some will charge at the rate of the "graveside."

Cremation: Includes actual process. In some cases an additional cost of \$300 is added if it was not included in the breakdown cost of cremation and includes use of an alternative container.

Memorial: Assistance with service when body not present.

Owns crematory: Funeral home owns crematory.

Forward: Arranging body transfer to another funeral home.

Receive: Body received from another funeral home.

Organ donation: Some funeral homes have an extra charge for repairing a body after skin or bone donation. But most organ procurement organizations (OPOs) cover this expense so there should be no extra charge to the family. Are these funeral homes getting paid twice?

Body donation: Pick-up of body and deliver to a medical school.

Priv. view/hr.: Cost per hour of private family viewing. A body does not need to be embalmed for this, although you may wish to ask the funeral home to dress the body first. See OPB.

ID prep/view & Sanitary care: Additional services required in very specific circumstances. May not be required by the funeral home.

Refrigeration: Not all have units.

Notes: Self explanatory.

Web site and prices: Mortuary has a web site and prices are displayed, if noted.

FTC/VT compliance: "NO" means major infraction, "no" means minor infraction or omission, per information we have received.

If you have questions regarding this information, please contact the FCA-VT President at malbis@gmavt.net or call (802)496-9458.

Vermont Survey--2009

	Hanson-Wal	Hooker- Whitcomb	Pruneau-Polli	Curtis-Britch	Fenton & Henn	Hanson-Wal	Mahar	Hale	Miller &	Atamaniuk	Ker-West	Brown-M	Boucher &	Corbin &	Elmwood-M
	Arlington	Barre	Barre	Barton	Bellows Falls	Bennington	Bennington	Bradford	Brandon	Brattleboro	Brattleboro	Bristol	Burlington	Burlington	Burlington
Basic fee	1750	1990	1885	1795	2020	1750	2430	1595	1596	1675	3080	1288	2195	1895	2070
Embalming	525	580	530	495	325	525	630	550	526	525	645	387	425	595	550
OPB	180	200	195	150		180	280	150	180	175	195	119	150	195	220
Viewing	650	580	395	265	300	650	310	700	295	525	195	309	650	795	360
Funeral	600	580	395	350	300	600	350	425	450	575	455	593	650	595	320
Transfer	270	340	325	295	300	270	355	300	340	425	515	361	295	495	295
Hearse	300	340	325	325	150	300	385	300	210	300	320	284	295	350	325
Limo/sedan			80	175			180		350	90	250		295		225
Service veh	100	180	80	175	75	100		50	95	195	150	129	100	95	95
Total	4375	4790	4210	4025	3470	4375	4920	4070	4042	4485	5805	3470	5055	5015	4460
Caskets	790	890	220	710	654	790	840	180	685	725	895	640	775	650	625
Vaults	825	1090	965	1095	837	825	1120	795	866	600	995	893	950	1560	985
Burial	2275	2290	1870	2980	1570	2275	2290	1695	2301	2215	2535	2780	1995	2740	1650
Graveside	300	400	300	350	175	300	310	425	335	475	395	387	350	350	240
Cremation	2515	2200	2205	2332	1795	2515	3050	2175	2391	2365	3435	2168	2195	1750	2050
\$300 cremation added	yes			yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes		yes		yes
Memorial	600	580	395	350	175	600	350	425	400	525	455	593	650	595	320
Owns crematory	shared					shared	yes				yes				
Forward	1750	2290	2390	1415	915	1750	2690	2300	1833	1625	1760	2522	1595	1595	1855
Receive	1225	1890	1645	1245	550	1225	1990	1600	1103	1825	1760	2010	1895	1695	1385
Body donation	1250	1790	1050	1795	725	1250	765	595	925	missing	1795	772	895	795	610
Organ donor		120								1275					
Priv view/hr	250	580	395	165	300	250	155	350	100	missing	195	309	350	495	230
ID prep/view		180	470					200							
Sanitary care	225	120	100	180	100	225		100	125	275	250	212	150	200	195
Refrigeration	125	120			75	125					50				
Notes		tiny type	Embalm req. after 24 hrs					May not require prep when no embalm- ing		May not require sanitary care		Handling fee = alt. container			Dated 11/1/07 but \$ higher than 07
Website	yes	no	no	yes	no	yes	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no	no	yes	no
Web prices	no			no		no	no			no	no			no	
		tiny type													
FTC/VT compliance			no	NO			no	no		NO		no			

Burial is w/o casket; Casket is least expensive; Cremation is w alt. container; Viewing=at least 2 hrs.; OPB=other prep of body

Vermont Survey--2009

	Ready	Ready	Ducharme	Boardway &	Adams-Kenny	Malcm Davis	Spears	Mt. View	Corbin & P	AW Rich	Durfee	Mallory	AW Rich	VT Blessngs	des Grosseilliers	No. VT	Curtis-B
	Burlington	Burlington	Castleton	Chelsea	Chester	Craftsbury C	Enosburg F	Essex Jct	Essex Jct	Essex Jct	Fair Haven	Fair Haven	Fairfax	Guilford	Hardwick	Hardwick	Island Pond
Basic fee	2290	2290	1250	1675	3200	1495	1797	2290	1895	2546	1500	1596	2546		1895	1449	1795
Embalming	495	495	500	350	560	450	438	495	595	475	475	526	475		500	425	495
OPB	150	150	195	165	150	100	166	150	195	250	130	180	250			135	150
Viewing	975	975	400	425	230	375	418	975	795	525	280	295	525		495	325	265
Funeral	675	675	325	650	290	375	556	675	595	475	395	450	475		495	325	350
Transfer	295	295	295	295	500	300	228	295	495	425	250	340	425		250	280	295
Hearse	275	275	250	255	285	275	310	275	350	375	225	210	375		295	250	325
Limo/sedan	170	170			300			170		175		350	175				175
Service veh	150	150	150	225	120	125	117	150	95	175	130	95	175		250	185	175
Total	5475	5475	3365	4040	5635	3495	4030	5475	5015	5421	3385	4042	5421		4180	3374	4025
Caskets	980	980	707	625	1025	795	469	980	650	199	750	685	199		125	150	710
Vaults	1100	1100	995	1050	1095	1150	890	1100	1560	1550	1095	866	1550		1395	975	1095
Burial	2290	2290	1200	1610	2045	2400	1896	2290	2740	2296	1500	2301	2296		895	1220	2980
Graveside	200	200	325	585	290	375	461	200	350	475	335	335	475		495	325	350
Cremation	2750	2750	1290	2025	2585	2700	2318	2750	1750	2495	1875	2391	2495	1295	1195	1675	2332
\$300 cremation added	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes		yes	yes		yes		yes	yes	yes
Memorial	675	675	325	650	290	375	556	675	595	475	395	400	475		495	325	350
Owns crematory	yes	yes			shared			yes									
Forward	2290	2290	1600	1185	2285	2195	2187	2290	1595	1996	1690	1833	1996		675	2019	1415
Receive	1788	1788	1400	1680	2285	1295	1337	1788	1695	1996	995	1103	1996		875	990	1245
Body donation	950	950	950	625	2535	1000	1137	950	795	1996	950	925	1996		395	1170	1795
Organ donor																	
Priv view/hr	350	350	200	425	210	375	272	350	495	275	125	150	275		495	n/c	165
ID prep/view				200													
Sanitary care	150	150	50	100	210	85	99	150	200	150	85	125	150			150	180
Refrigeration																	
Notes	No address, phone; family viewing unfairly restricted	No address, phone; family viewing unfairly restricted		Changed FTC wording; req. embaln after 48 hrs; missing options	limited service* cremation: \$995			No address, phone; family viewing unfairly restricted		No home viewing w/o embaln			No home viewing w/o embaln	Add \$100 for no. VT; \$35 credit card fee			
Website	yes	yes	no	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no	no	yes
Web prices	no	no			no		incomplete	no	no	yes	no		yes				no
FTC/VT compliance	NO	NO		NO				NO		NO					NO		NO

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Vermont Survey--2009

	des Groseilliers	Adams-Kenny	Guibord	Pearsons	Brewster	Sanderson	Minor	Barber &	Guare	White-Fliess	Curtis-B	Converse-Rush	Kingston	Barnard	Roberts-A	Day	Gifford
	Johnson	Ludlow	Lyndonville	Lyndonville	Manchester	Middlebury	Milton	Montpelier	Montpelier	Morrisville	Newport	Newport	Northfield	Pittsford	Poultney	Randolph	Richmond
Basic fee	1895	3200	1700	1675	1750	1495	2306	2245	1995	1795	1795	1795	1990	1360	1750	1295	1695
Embalming	500	560	400	550	525	550	425	475	475	425	495	495	650	500	600	565	515
OPB		150	150	150	180	195	80	175	175	150	150	150	200	125	225	165	195
Viewing	495	230	200	200	650	425	550	300	495	315	265	265	350	370	400	195	600
Funeral	495	290	350	400	600	425	450	600	595	315	350	350	500	425	450	795	600
Transfer	250	500	200	200	270	295	250	375	295	225	295	295	350	295	400	225	400
Hearse	295	285	300	200	300	295	295	250	225	325	325	325	385	195	225	225	350
Limo/sedan		300									175	175					
Service veh	250	120	100	75	100	150	165	75	95	100	175	175	125	185	125	175	95
Total	4180	5635	3400	3450	4375	3830	4521	4495	4350	3650	4025	4025	4550	3455	4175	3640	4450
Caskets	125	1025	695	595	790	707	75	680	695	795	710	710	790	850	695	475	850
Vaults	1395	1095	995	1195	825	995	700	550	895	1025	1095	1095	895	1040	1195	895	1450
Burial	895	2045	1900	2000	2275	1495	2027	2195	1995	1500	2980	2980	2995	1650	1940	1495	1660
Graveside	495	290	350	400	300	425	225	500	325	200	350	350	350	325	300	795	450
Cremation	1195	2585	2450	2355	2515	1895	2606	2295	2550	1950	2332	2332	2025	1875	2295	1595	1975
\$300 cremation added	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes			yes		yes
Memorial	495	290	350	400	600	425	450	600	595	315	350	350	500	315	450	795	600
Owns crematory		shared			shared	yes							yes				
Forward	675	2285	1900	1895	1750	2000	1562	1250	1595	1245	1415	1415	1695	1875	2385	745	1875
Receive	875	2285	1700	1295	1225	1500	1516	1495	995	995	1245	1245	1290	950	1860	895	1565
Body donation	395	2535	1900	1295	1250	950	1275	1965	1595	950	1795	1795	1645	795	1125	895	850
Organ donor				200													
Priv view/hr	495	210	200	missing	250	425	100	200	250	215	165	165	350	185	200	n/c	450
ID prep/view													80				
Sanitary care		210	100	125	225	195	80		100	150	180	180	50	275	325	165	300
Refrigeration				85	125				75								
Notes		limited service* cremation: \$995				unchanged from 07				Dated 07 but higher \$							
Website	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	obit only	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no
Web prices		no	no	no	no	no	no	incomplete	incomplete		no	no		incomplete			
									Options missing								
FTC/VT compliance				NO				no	no	no	NO	NO					

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Vermont Survey--2009

	Aldous	Clifford	Tossing	Corbin Palmer	Gregory	Davis	Brady-Lev	Heald	Sayles	Kidder	Hale	White	Boardway &	Brown-M	Aldous	Perkins-P
	Rutland	Rutland	Rutland	Shelburne	Shelburne	Springfield	St. Albans	St. Albans	St. Johnsbury	Swanton	Thetford	Townshend	Tunbridge	Vergennes	Wallingford	Waterbury
Basic fee	1795	2050	2150	1795		1685	1675	1788	1700	1695	1595	3080	1675	1288	1795	2400
Embalming	550	500	475	595		425	500	400	400	400	550	645	350	387	550	575
OPB	295	180	180	185		175	325	175	150	150	150	195	165	119	295	
Viewing	425	550	195	795		300	650	550	200	425	700	195	425	309	425	425
Funeral	550	550	500	575		300	550	500	350	525	425	455	650	593	550	425
Transfer	395	325	275	425		225	300	325	200	250	300	515	295	361	395	299
Hearse	425	300	245	325		185	300	290	300	250	300	320	255	284	425	300
Limo/sedan	250	125	200			175		100				250			250	
Service veh	250		75	95		100	285		100		50	150	225	129	250	150
Total	4935	4580	4295	4790		3570	4585	4128	3400	3695	4070	5805	4040	3470	4935	4574
Caskets	125	890	850	650		995	240	85	695	missing	180	895	625	640	125	995
Vaults	1095	1090	1175	1295		875	1375	1050	995	missing	795	995	1050	893	1095	1395
Burial	1795	1680	1510	1660		2120	2930	1600	1900	1986	1695	2535	1610	2780	1795	3000
Graveside	375	350	500	350		200	550	350	350	250	425	395	585	387	375	275
Cremation	1920	2475	2225	1750	1535	2195	3475	2180	2450	2281	2175	3435	2025	2168	1920	3100
\$300 cremation added		yes			yes	yes	yes		yes	yes	yes	yes	yes			
Memorial	550	550	500	575		300	550	500	350	525	425	455	650	593	550	425
Owns crematory												yes				
Forward	1795	1480	1195	1395		2296	3005	1060	1900	1310	2300	1760	1185	2522	1795	3195
Receive	1795	1180	950	1495		2291	2260	1250	1700	1335	1600	1760	1680	2010	1795	2700
Body donation	995	1700	950	695	450	1990	1585	836	1900	missing	595	1795	625	772	995	995
Organ donor																
Priv view/hr	225	275	195	495	150	125	650	250	200	250		350	195	425	309	225
ID prep/view											200		200			
Sanitary care	395	140	190	200		125	350	150	100	150	100	250	100	212	395	100
Refrigeration						100	150					50				
Notes	limited cremation: \$1795	Some prices hand-written, not typed				Requires refrig after 8 hours if no embalming	No law req. refig. as claimed; horse or motor-cycle hearse			Options missing	May not require prep when no embalming	Changed FTC wording: req. embalm after 48 hrs; missing options	Handling fee = alt. container		limited cremation: \$1795	Embalm req. after 24 hrs
Website	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no	yes	yes
Web prices	yes	no		no	no		no	incomplete	no	incomplete		no			yes	yes
FTC/VT compliance						NO	NO			NO	no		NO	no		NO

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Vermont Survey--2009

	Mullin-C	Knight	Covey-Allen	Knight	Lavigne	Cabot		STATISTICS	09 Average	Median	High	Low	07 average	% increase
	W. Rutland	WRJ	Wilmington	Windsor	Winooski	Woodstock								
Basic fee	2050	1995	1750	1995	1995	1500		Basic fee	1909	1795	3200	1250	1763	8%
Embalmng	500	295	525	295	525	475		Embalmng	495	500	650	295	458	8%
OPB	180	115	180	115	95	150		OPB	173	175	325	80	161	8%
Viewing	550	275	650	275	575	450		Viewing	448	425	975	195	448	0
Funeral	550	350	600	350	375	450		Funeral	481	475	795	290	437	10%
Transfer	325	365	270	365	250	350		Transfer	324	299	515	200	284	14%
Hearse	300	195	300	195	250	275		Hearse	289	295	425	150	259	12%
Limo/sedan	125				95			Limo/sedan	198	175	350	80	179	11%
Service veh		110	100	110	95	150		Service veh	137	125	285	50	115	19%
Total	4580	3700	4375	3700	4255	3800		Total	4292	4210	5805	3365	3992	8%
Caskets	890	845	790	845	690	995		Caskets	653	707	1025	75	608	7%
Vaults	1090	995	825	995	950	895		Vaults	1047	1033	1560	550	955	10%
Burial	1680	2250	2275	2250	1965	2295		Burial	2073	2045	3000	895	1839	13%
Graveside	350	295	300	295	350	450		Graveside	363	350	795	175	355	
Cremation	2475	1775	2515	1775	2225	1800		Cremation	2238	2253	3475	1195	1949	15%
\$300 cremation added	yes		yes			yes								
Memorial	550	350	600	350	375	450		Memorial	475	475	795	175	447	
Owns crematory		yes	shared	yes										
Forward	1480	795	1750	795	1700	1195		Forward	1758	1750	3195	675	1602	
Receive	1180	725	1225	725	1450	995		Receive	1483	1495	2700	550	1364	
Body donation	1700	395	1250	395	475	895		Body donation	1174	995	2535	395	1090	8%
Organ donor								Organ donor			150	120		
Priv view/hr	275	275	250	275	200	300		Priv view/hr	284	250	650	0	264	
ID prep/view								ID prep/view	219	200	470	80	172	
Sanitary care	140	115	225	115	95	150		Sanitary care	168	150	395	50	157	
Refrigeration			125					Refrigeration	100	110	150	50	97	
Notes	Some prices hand-written, not typed													
Website	yes	no	yes	no	no	yes								
Web prices	no		no			no								
FTC/VT compliance														

Burial is w/o casket; Casket is least expensive; Cremation is w alt. container; Viewing=at least 2 hrs.; OPB=other prep of body