Financial Help For Funerals and Burials

compiled by the Funeral Ethics Organization, **www.funeralethics.org**

Last updated February 2012

Notes—Some states offer modest amounts of money for those who die poor, while others don't. And in some states the responsibility falls to the county or the town. If the county or municipality takes responsibility, that is noted in the "County" column. If there is no entry in that column, that means we have no information on whether the county or municipality provides any help. In some cases we've found data on specifically what one or two counties in a state offer. These are samples only and you should contact your own county government.
If your state offers help, contact the Department of Social Services (sometimes called "Human Services" or welfare) that serves your area. If your county or municipality offers help, call the offices of the local government.
If there is a limit on how much a family can contribute we note that, but if no specific number is entered that means we do not know the specific limit.
If you find errors or can supply more information, please email **lisa@funeralethics.org** and **josh@funerals.org**.

	State	**County**	**Limit on family contribution**
Alabama	None	Minimal ($400?)	Uncertain
Alaska	Only for tribal members		Yes
Arizona	None	Limited burial/cremation, no ceremony	Yes
Arkansas	None	Must apply for help to the county judge	Yes
California	None	Contact the local coroner's office. Note that California is notorious for finding ways not to pay, so call the coroner's office before you call a funeral home.	Yes
Colorado	$1,500 if you're on Medicaid/$1,000 if you're on SSI		The total spent on arrangments, including money contributed by the family as well as the state, may not exceed $2,500.
Connecticut	$1,800 (DSS)		$1,000
Delaware	$400 estimate or pauper burial in one of three county cemeteries		Uncertain
DC	$800 toward burial $450 toward cremation		Up to $2,000 total cost
Florida	None	Each county contracts with a single FH, expect limited services.	Yes
Georgia	None	varies $0 to $500	Uncertain

Financial Help For Funerals and Burials

compiled by the Funeral Ethics Organization, **www.funeralethics.org**

Last updated February 2012

	State	County	Limit on family contribution
Hawaii	$400 toward funeral home or crematory expenses and $400 toward cemetery expenses		Uncertain
Idaho	None	Varies by county. Example—Twin Falls: Basic Service $895.00 Cremation $695.00	Uncertain
Illinois	$1,103 for funeral costs, $552 for burial costs.		The amount of money spent, including state assistance and family contribution, may not exceed $2,000 in funeral home costs and $2,000 for cemetery costs.
Indiana	$600 toward funeral expenses, $400 toward cemetery expenses.	Varies	The family may contribute up to $750 so long as the total spent does not exceed $1,750.
Iowa	None	Varies from $0 to $2,000	Uncertain
Kansas	None	Unclaimed bodies only	N/A
Kentucky	None	Varies, expect at most a no-ceremony burial or cremation.	Yes
Louisiana	None	Expect limited services	Yes
Maine	None	By municipality, varies	Uncertain
Maryland	$650 through Social Services		$850
Massachusetts	$1,100		$400
Michigan	$600 or less		Uncertain
Minnesota	None	Varies by county. Examples— $2,100 (Hennepin Co) $2800 (Benton)	Uncertain
Mississippi	None	Varies	Uncertain
Missouri	None	Varies	Uncertain
Montana	None	Varies	Uncertain
Nebraska	none	Varies	Uncertain
Nevada	None	Cremation; expect no ceremonial services.	Uncertain
New Hampshire	None	Varies by municipality	Uncertain

Financial Help For Funerals and Burials

compiled by the Funeral Ethics Organization, **www.funeralethics.org**

Last updated February 2012

	State	County	Limit on family contribution
New Jersey	None	$1,000 or less.	Uncertain
New Mexico	$200		Less than $600
New York	none	Varies by county. One county, for example, offers $1,000.	Uncertain
New York City	For useful information see www.nycremation.com/pdf/Indigent_burial.pdf	$900	Family may contribute so long as the total money spent from all sources does not exceed $1,700.
North Carolina	None	Varies by municipality	Yes
North Dakota	None	Varies tremendously from $300 to $3,000+	Uncertain
Ohio	None	Varies by county	Uncertain
Oklahoma	None	Limited help; expect no ceremonial services	Uncertain
Oregon	$650 if available in state budget		Uncertain
Pennsylvania	$750		Yes
Rhode Island	$900		Uncertain
South Carolina	None	Contact the local coroner. Expect limited services if any.	
South Dakota	None	Varies by county. Examples—Minnehaha up to $2,999, Lincoln offers $2,500	Yes
Tennessee	None	Expect limited services	Uncertain
Texas	None	Varies from $300 to $1,500	Uncertain
Utah	None	Simple cremation	Uncertain
Vermont	$1,100		None
Virginia	None	Varies by county. Example—Norfolk offers $500	Uncertain
Washington	None	Limited and varies by country. Example—King County offers $500 for veterans.	Uncertain
West Virginia	$1,250		$1,200

Financial Help For Funerals and Burials

compiled by the Funeral Ethics Organization, **www.funeralethics.org**

Last updated February 2012

	State	County	Limit on family contribution
Wisconsin	State money administered at the county level.	$1,500 for funeral home expenses and $1,000 for cemetery costs.	Uncertain
Wyoming	$995	Varies by county. Example—Park County offers $2,500	Uncertain