



FINAL PASSAGES



Bringing Funerals Back Home

Disclosures

I have nothing to disclose



Final Passages

Institute for Conscious Dying, Home Funeral & Green Burial Education

- Started in 1995, Final Passages is the nations first non-profit, educational and resource institute dedicated to preparing people for a compassionate, holistic approach to end-of-life that includes natural death care and family-directed home funerals. It has now become a movement.
- Our work serves the needs of community members who come from a variety of cultural, economic and religious perspectives.
- Our educational program teaches the practices of conscious dying, end-of-life doula work, the art of death midwifery, home funeral guidance and ecologically sound options for disposition.

History of Funeral Tradition in America

- ◆ Up until the early 1900s, families cared for their loved ones at the time of death
- ◆ Families washed, anointed, and dressed the body
- ◆ Families conducted ceremonies at home
- ◆ Loved ones were buried in churchyard or family cemetery





Home Funerals vs. Conventional Funerals

Home funerals

- ◆ are conducted by family and community
- ◆ take place in the home
- ◆ allow extended time with the deceased
- ◆ are conducted with no invasive procedures
- ◆ involve family in burial or witnessing cremation
- ◆ encourage green and sustainable options

Conventional funerals

- ◆ are conducted by funeral director
- ◆ take place in a mortuary
- ◆ time with deceased is limited and cost by the hour
- ◆ embalm with toxic chemicals
- ◆ employ staff to handle care and disposition
- ◆ do not necessarily know of or offer green options



Facts About Home Funerals

- ◆ Home funerals are legal in all states
- ◆ Funeral directors must be involved in 10 states
- ◆ Embalming is not legally required in any state
- ◆ Deceased can remain in the home for a wake or vigil for extended periods in all states
- ◆ Caskets and the home may be personalized to reflect beliefs and values





What is a Home Funeral?

Families ...

- ◆ plan and carry out their own after-death rituals and ceremonies
- ◆ prepare the body for lying in honor
- ◆ create ways to express their grief
- ◆ file their own paperwork
- ◆ transport the deceased
- ◆ facilitate the final disposition





Home Funeral Guides

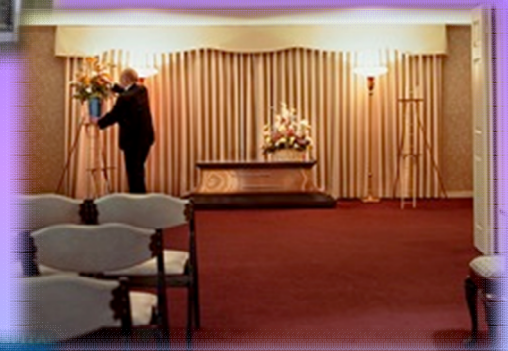
- ◆ educate families about their legal and innate rights to hold home funerals
- ◆ facilitate maximum involvement of families and their social network
- ◆ teach families how to prepare and carry out a home funeral according to state laws
- ◆ offer education to the community about home funerals and green burial





Cooperating with Businesses & Authorities

- ◆ Police
- ◆ Coroner
- ◆ County Registrars,
Office of Vital Records
- ◆ Mortuaries
- ◆ Hospices
- ◆ Hospitals
- ◆ Senior facilities





Other Helpful Businesses

- ◆ Crematoriums or cemeteries
- ◆ Churches or places of worship
- ◆ Businesses that sell dry ice
- ◆ *Businesses that sell biodegradable caskets or shrouds







Preparing for Lying in Honor





Natural Death Care





Lying in Grace





Creating Ways to Express Grief





Including Children





Saying Goodbye





A Family may choose to shroud their beloved*





Decorating Caskets as Art Therapy





Quilting Friends Decorate Annie's Casket





Painting the Masterpiece





The Laying on of Hands





Decorating in Decoupage





Casket Paintings by Libby, Jody's Daughter

Inside Lid



Outside Lid





Family Ritual of Casketing





Transporting the Body





Dean & Sarah do American Gothic





Sarah Riding to the Crematorium in Style





Preparing to Let Go





Dancing Outside the Crematorium





Home Funerals with Green Burial

- ◆ Families who choose to have a home funeral with a burial will usually opt for a green burial.
- ◆ They choose natural death care in behalf of the earth as well as their beloved who will be interred.
- ◆ They like to be involved in the rituals to the very end.
- ◆ They will lower the body themselves and fill in the grave.





Father at his Daughter's Grave





Shroud Burial by Family & Friends





Participating in the Burial





Singing the Way Home





Preparing for the End of Life

- ◆ Complete your advance directives and encourage your family and community to do the same
- ◆ Educate yourself and others on the topics of conscious dying, home funerals and green burial. www.finalpassages.org
- ◆ Become a member of the National Home Funeral Alliance (NHFA). The NHFA has biennial conferences. www.homefuneralalliance.org
- ◆ Look for and join a Funeral Consumers Alliance (FCA) in your area. The FCA has biennial conferences. www.funerals.org





Trainings & Workshops

- ◆ Prepare and support individuals
- ◆ Help explore fears and concerns
- ◆ Teach legal & practical processes & procedures
- ◆ Teach eco-friendly and affordable choices & methods
- ◆ Offer instruction on planning, carrying out and guiding family-directed home funerals
- ◆ Educate about ritual and ceremony that support healing





IMAGINE...

- Facing death with far fewer fears
- A funeral ceremony being held in a home or a private, intimate setting; allowing for a longer and more personal goodbye
- Bodies being respectfully cared for by family and friends and not strangers
- Family and friends decorating or building a casket as a healing act of love
- Environmentally conscious final disposition
- Children learning that death is a natural part of the life cycle by being present during home funerals
- Knowing about affordable options compared to conventional choices



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