

Funeral Scams

- ❖ **There are more than 5000 funerals and burials in the United States each day, and the majority of grieving families are assisted by capable and compassionate funeral industry professional. Those that are not so lucky probably were misinformed or ill-prepared for the decisions involved in burying a loved one. To avoid falling victim to funeral or cemetery fraud, the Better Business offers the following tips.**
- ❖ **Take time to shop around before making a purchase. Funeral homes are required to provide detailed price lists over the phone or in writing. Product mark-ups can be significant.**
- ❖ **Check out the funeral service. Contact the BBB for a report on the funeral home.**
- ❖ **Sellers who claim to have a product or service that will preserve human remains over the long term are misleading you. Funeral providers can not determine how long a casket will preserve a body, so keep that in mind when deciding whether to purchase the more expensive “sealed” or “protective” casket.**
- ❖ **Embalming is not always required. You are not required to have embalming if you choose direct cremation or immediate burial.**
- ❖ **Consult a friend or family member. It might be a good idea to take along a friend or relative when you visit the funeral home.**
- ❖ **Require all proposed plans and purchases to be put in writing.**
- ❖ **Carefully read contracts and purchasing agreements before signing.**
- ❖ **Prepaying for a funeral has advantages, as well as risks. If you choose to prepay, make a well-informed decision carefully research your options and know your rights. You can always make plans in advance without prepaying. Be sure to share your specific wishes with those close to you.**

Resource: 2008 Better Business Bureau Wise Buying Guide