

# The Case for Home Funerals

## promoting eco-friendly, noninvasive, natural after-death care

### What is Home Funeral?

Home funerals occur when a loved one is cared for at home after death, giving family time to gather and participate in:

- planning and carrying out after-death rituals or ceremonies
- preparing the body for burial or cremation by bathing, dressing and laying out for visitation
- keeping the body cool with noninvasive cooling techniques, such as dry ice or Techni-ice
- filing the death certificate and obtaining transport and burial permits
- transporting the deceased to the place of burial or cremation
- facilitating the final disposition, such as digging the grave in natural burial
- hiring professionals for specific services



### The Value of Home Funerals

Home funerals invite family, friends, and community into an authentic and healing after-death care experience in a safe and familiar place, with care performed by loving hands. In terms of cost, a family willing to care for their own will spend a fraction of the cost of a conventional funeral. Old-fashioned virtues of frugality, simplicity, self-reliance, and care for the earth guide us in creating authentic funeral rituals and celebrations of life.

### The Myth of Health Risks

One of the top concerns families have are about health issues. Here is what a leading authority, Dr. Michael Osterholm, from the Center for Infectious Disease Policy and Research says, “...*the mere presence of a dead body ... does not pose any increased risk of infectious disease transmission for the person who might handle that body or review it in a private setting...There simply is no measurable risk of that body transmitting an infectious disease agent. . .*” The World Health Organization, Pan American Health Organization, and the Centers for Disease Control concur.

### How Can I Learn More About Home Funerals?

The National Home Funeral Alliance (NHFA) is a nonprofit membership organization committed to reconnecting to our heritage, educating individuals, families and communities, empowering families, and encouraging those who further the practice of home funerals. New Hampshire Funeral Resources, Education & Advocacy is a NH-based nonprofit dedicated to educating the public about home funerals and green and home burials. Both provide easy to access information to assist you in learning how to prepare for an eco-friendly, affordable exit.

For more information, go to:

[www.homefuneralalliance.org](http://www.homefuneralalliance.org)

[www.nhfuneral.org](http://www.nhfuneral.org)

