

## **Funeral Professional information and Tips**

### **How Professional Funeral Service Purchases Work**

- Pay non-declinable fee up front
- Choose items separately/a la carte
- Purchase a bundled package
- They have to provide a General Price List (GPL) by law
- They have to accept your container with no added fee
- Don't get overwhelmed in an arrangement conference; this is YOUR time
- You can change providers at any time
- Be sure to ask questions about add-ons
- Cash advance items include:
  - Cemetery charges
  - Vault
  - Crematory charges
  - Flowers
  - Obituary notice
  - Death certificate
  - Music

### **Funeral Home Payment Planning**

#### Funeral Director's Trust

- Prepaid plan/monthly installment plan
- Not transferrable or refundable
- Entrusted to the funeral home
- May be held and bought by other funds

#### Insurance policy

- Nonrefundable
- May lose value
- Beneficiary may be a funeral home
- Medicaid protected asset

#### Payable on Death (POD) bank account

- Not Medicaid protected
- Co-signer should be your next-of-kin or designated agent

## **Funeral Pre-Payment Planning Tips**

- Obtain a pre-need agreement for prepaid funerals
- If you pay cash, get a receipt
- Know where your money is being deposited
- Tell your next-of-kin if you have prepaid your funeral arrangements and the name of the funeral home. *Otherwise, they may select a different funeral home and pay again.*
- Some states require following wishes (*VT and NH have personal preference laws*)
- Guaranteed vs. nonguaranteed plans
- Set rates (must be paid in full) vs. paying prices at the time with estate paying for overage
- Cemetery, crematory, clergy, death certificate, etc. costs not included
- Moneys plus accrued interest must be transferred to new funeral home or returned to you on request
- VT and NH require irrevocable trusts and return of excess to the estate