

A photograph of a dirt path winding through a lush green forest. The path is flanked by tall grasses and small yellow flowers. The trees are dense and green, with sunlight filtering through the canopy. At the top of the image, there is a horizontal bar with six colored segments: grey, blue, red, purple, green, and orange.

WITH LIFE'S TWISTS AND TURNS...

FINAL ARRANGEMENTS
CAN BE STRAIGHT
FORWARD.



PRE-PLANNING

Pre-planning is about recording, in writing, your final wishes with a Funeral Establishment.

When you work with a licensed Funeral Establishment to prepare your funeral plans, your wishes and payment options are documented by a contract between you and the Funeral Establishment.

At the time of need, your family will have the funeral service arranged for them by the Funeral Professional. If you pre-paid for the funeral arrangement, the Funeral Professional will inform your family of the services that are covered by your contract and arrange the funeral accordingly.

*“ It was probably one of the
best investments
I’ve ever made in my whole life. ”*

HOW DOES PRE-PLANNING MY FUNERAL HELP MY LOVED ONES?

When your wishes are clearly documented, it relieves your family of much stress and confusion and allows them to focus on healing and coming to terms with their loss.

When the funeral plan is pre-paid, your family is spared the expense at an emotional time.

WHAT SHOULD YOU EXPECT AT A FUNERAL PRE-ARRANGEMENT APPOINTMENT?

Funeral pre-planning is a simple and straight forward process. At your appointment, the Funeral Professional will ask you the type of service you prefer and outline the details of the various options you can choose. They will discuss the options available and design a plan that best fits the needs of you and your family.

You are always free to change your mind about your services.



FINANCIAL

A WISE FINANCIAL ESTATE PLAN

YOUR PRE-PAYMENT

- ▶ Earns Interest.
- ▶ Is secure & guaranteed.
- ▶ Is part of a wise financial and estate plan.
- ▶ Offers tax benefits.
- ▶ Provides peace & comfort.

HOW IS MY MONEY PROTECTED?

- ▶ Your money is deposited in trust, by law, with a 3rd party financial institution that is covered & guaranteed by CDIC, DICO or Assuris.
- ▶ Your funds cannot be used by the Funeral Establishment or their creditors as outlined in the Ontario Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act.

All pre-paid deposits in trust with a financial institution (bank, credit union or insurance company) are covered by Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation (CDIC) for banks, Deposit Insurance Corporation of Ontario (DICO) for credit unions or the insurance industry protection fund, Assuris.

HOW IS MY PRIVACY PROTECTED?

All pre-paid contracts abide by the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act or PIPEDA, set out by the Ministry of Justice.

Please visit laws.justice.gc.ca for more information.

HOW IS MY MONEY RETRIEVED & USED FOR MY FUNERAL COVERAGE?

- 1 At the time of need, the Funeral Establishment notifies the financial institution, where your pre-paid funds are in trust, with a proof of death certificate.
- 2 Your funds are released to the Funeral Establishment to pay for the contracted funeral arrangement.
- 3 Any money left over must by law go back to your estate or beneficiary.



TRAVEL ASSISTANCE

WHAT ABOUT COVERAGE WHILE TRAVELLING?

The Travel Assistance Plan is ideal for anyone travelling anywhere in the world or even just 100 kilometers away from home.

One phone call to your Funeral Establishment will explain how to purchase a travel assistance plan that covers all the costs and logistics involved in bringing you home with no charges to your family, should death occur while travelling.

Your family is spared undue worry and hassle helping them to cope better and honor your memory in peace.

Ask your local Funeral Professional for details.





FAQ

DO I NEED A WILL?

Having a legal will makes things easier for your family. A legal will not only outlines how your assets are to be distributed, it also states who is responsible for executing the will. Not having a will, or having a poorly drawn will can place unnecessary stress on your family and will make simple tasks (like closing bank accounts) much more difficult.

DO I NEED AN EXECUTOR?

Yes. The executor is named in the will and their job is to execute the wishes outlined in the will. You can choose a family member, friend, third party professional, or a combination of these to administer the settlement of your estate.

An executor's duties vary depending on the complexity of the estate. Some duties include locating, reading and interpreting the will, gathering the estate's assets (financial, insurance, pensions) and administering the estate (close out accounts, locate missing beneficiaries, distribution of personal effects, etc...)

Executors have the right to seek assistance and still retain their decision-making authority. An executor can get help from trust companies, lawyers and accountants.

WHAT KIND OF TAX BENEFITS DOES A PRE-ARRANGEMENT QUALIFY FOR?

A pre-paid contract up to \$15,000 with a licensed funeral establishment qualifies as an EFA (Eligible Funeral Amount) which ensures that all interest earned in the pre-paid fund grows tax exempt for the life of the contract.

IF I PRE-PAY MY FUNERAL, IS MY MONEY SAFE?

Yes. All licensed Funeral Establishments in Ontario contribute to a Compensation Fund which is administered by the Board of Funeral Service. This fund exists to protect you, the consumer from fraud. In addition, your pre-paid funds are regulated and monitored by the government.

WHAT IF I CHANGE MY MIND ABOUT MY PRE-ARRANGEMENTS?

As your life circumstances change, so can your pre-arrangements. In fact, it is prudent to review your pre-arrangements every 5-10 years to ensure your plan still makes sense for you and your family. Changes can only be made by you, as the contract is between you and the Funeral Establishment. All plans are completely portable in Canada.

I RECEIVED MAIL FROM AN INSURANCE COMPANY ABOUT PURCHASING A FUNERAL PLAN. IS THIS THE SAME AS A PRE-PAID FUNERAL?

Not necessarily. You should never purchase any kind of "funeral plan" before talking with someone from a licensed funeral establishment. Often, these types of mailers are offering a final expense insurance policy that is not a pre-paid funeral at all. A pre-paid funeral will always involve an itemized pre-paid contract with a licensed funeral establishment, signed by a licensed funeral professional. If you are unsure if an establishment or representative is licensed, then ask to see their license.



AFTER THE FUNERAL

Following the death of a loved one, a family quickly finds out that there are many things to do. Your Funeral Professional provides guidance on:

- ▶ Preparation for CPP death benefits and survivor benefits.
- ▶ How to cancel credit cards, drivers licences, health cards, health coverage etc.
- ▶ How to notify agencies about ceasing veteran's benefits, WSIB benefits, and pension plans.
- ▶ Preparing acknowledgement cards and thank you notes.
- ▶ How to notify the credit bureau to prevent identity theft.

CONTACT INFO