

Comparative Costs of Funeral Home versus At-home Post-death Care

Note: this table only uses two particular funeral homes' prices — two of the less expensive ones in B.C. Some of the more expensive funeral homes will charge higher fees for most of these items -- possibly more than double the prices below. This table is only intended to give you a very general idea of the parallel cost of the most inexpensive funeral home usage, as compared to 'Post-death Care by family at home'. You will need to compare prices with funeral homes in your own area. The 'Post-death Care by family at home' column does not include any fees or donations to a private pan-death provider; and neither columns include the costs of the actual burial or cremation (which will vary, depending on where you live).

Funeral Home	Fee	Post-death Care by family at home	Fee
Transportation from hospital or care facility to funeral home (not counted in total) OR	\$165 plus mileage	Possible cost of renting a station wagon or van, unless family or friends have a suitable vehicle	\$100 approx.
Transportation from home to funeral home (smallest amount counted in total)	\$265-\$300 plus mileage	Same vehicle as above — no extra cost, except for mileage (rental of vehicle is only counted once in total below)	\$100 approx.
Transportation from funeral home to burial or cremation facility	\$165 plus mileage	Same vehicle as above — no extra cost, except for mileage (rental is only counted once in total below)	\$100 approx.
Preparation and dressing of the deceased	\$200	Dry ice (depending on size of Death Journeyer, and number of times it must be replaced — larger amount counted in total below)	\$40-100
Embalming and dressing (not counted in total, as it is usually unnecessary)	\$400	No embalming at home	\$0
Visitation, prayers or viewing for 1 hours Mon-Fri 9-5 (counted in total below)	\$125	Vigils, lying-in-honour, or other ceremonies (clergy/etc. might charge)	\$0
Visitation, prayers or viewing for 2 hours Mon-Fri 9-5 (not counted in total)	\$200	Vigils, lying-in-honour, or other ceremonies (clergy/etc. might charge)	\$0
Visitation, prayers or viewing for 2 hours evenings and weekends (not counted in total)	\$300	Vigils, lying-in-honour, or other ceremonies (clergy/etc. might charge)	\$0
Cardboard coffin for cremation — under 180 lbs	(included in crematory fees)	Cardboard/pressboard coffin (counted in total)	\$75 approx.
Cremation casket for a body between 250 to 450 lbs (not counted in total)	\$289	Cremation casket for a body between 250 to 450 lbs (not counted in total)	\$289.00
Professional and Staff Services (arrangements with next-of-kin)	\$165	Pan-death provider	\$?
Registration and Documentation	\$165	(done by family members or friends, and perhaps pan-death provider)	\$0
Facility Fee (housing the body, and other arrangements)	\$175	(not required)	\$0
A religious or secular service without the body present; use of chapel and staff; assistance with composition and submission of obituary notice: (counted in total) OR	\$350	Final ceremony	\$0
A religious or secular service; use of chapel and staff, with the deceased present (closed casket); use of funeral coach and staff; (not counted in total)	\$550	Final ceremony	\$0
Certificate of Death or certified copy	\$18	Registration of Death forms available from Vital Statistics	?
Provincial Death Certificate (each)	\$27	Provincial Death Certificate (each) from Vital Statistics	\$27
Approximate total (using smallest amounts, and not counting taxes)	\$1655	Approximate total (using larger amounts, but not counting fees/donation to Pan-death Provider, or taxes)	\$302