



If you are a new member, thank you for your membership. Welcome!  
If you are not a yet a member, would you like to join us as a member?  
Initial membership is \$25 per individual. Also consider giving a gift membership to friends and family members. All are welcome to join.

FCA Maine is nothing more than you and me, working together. *You are the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Maine.* When volunteers advocate for end-of-life planning and consumer choice, so do you! **Your membership supports education and advocacy.**

## **APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP** You may join on our website [www.fcmaine.net](http://www.fcmaine.net)

**For each new membership, submit ALL of the following information, with a check for \$25:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Application \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to FCA Maine, mail payment with this form to: FCA Maine, PO Box 622, Brunswick, ME 04011-0622. The Funeral Consumers Alliance of Maine is a non-profit organization.

## **Ten Suggestions to Reduce Funeral Costs**

from *The Grim Reaper*, a publication of the national Funeral Consumers Alliance, [www.funerals.org](http://www.funerals.org)

- 1. Talk about funerals with family members ahead of time** so they all will know your wishes and you will know theirs.
- 2. Price shop among funeral homes** by phone or in person.
- 3. Only buy what you want.** You have the legal right to pick and choose only what you want and can afford from a funeral home.
- 4. Make your own casket.** Yes, you can, and yes, the funeral home is legally obligated to accept it.
- 5. Consider the inexpensive “direct burial”, “direct or immediate cremation” packages.**
- 6. Plan a memorial service** without the body present. Also, you don’t need a funeral home to arrange a meaningful memorial.
- 7. Skip embalming.** It’s not required by law in most circumstances, although most funeral homes have an in-house policy against public viewing without embalming. Be sure to ask.
- 8. Consider body donation** to a medical school.
- 9. Ask for a “grave liner”** rather than a vault if the cemetery requires an outer container.
- 10. Handle all the arrangements without using a mortuary,** just like our families did until about the 20th century. The book *Final Rights: Reclaiming the American Way of Death* (by Slocum and Carlson) shows you how and includes plain-English legal information for each state in the country.

For more details, see the full version of *Ten Tips for Saving Funeral Dollars* at [www.funerals.org](http://www.funerals.org) in the MENU For Consumers/ Frequently Asked Questions