

Purpose and Benefits of Joining *Funeral Consumers Association (FCA) of Tampa Bay*

Purpose

The Association serves to:

- Promote through education and by example, dignified and affordable funeral arrangements.
- Encourage pre-arrangement to lessen the emotional stress for the family that follows the death of a member.
- Help the family to know that they are honoring your wishes. A choice of simplicity will be understood to respect your directions.
- Inform members of the various alternatives for the lawful disposition of the remains and for the services of worship and remembrance.
- Reduce costs of burial, cremation, and other body disposition by offering the services of a licensed cooperating funeral and cremation service.
- Endeavor to maintain a current central file for recording all members' arrangement plans and desires.

Membership Benefits

There are many benefits in joining the Funeral Consumers Assoc. (FCA) of Tampa Bay:

- First and foremost, the Association has an agreement with an undertaker in the Tampa Bay area that will provide dignified, inexpensive services for a predetermined cost. As an Association member, you can take advantage of these low-cost options.
- You have access to a Final Arrangements Form when you join. This document allows you to indicate detailed funeral planning. You may designate your preference as to the disposition of your body at the time of death: burial, cremation, or body donation. You can plan in detail the service you wish. Often this form facilitates the family's discussion of a difficult subject, which then leads to your and their understanding and peace of mind.

- We keep members up-to-date through a newsletter published annually, so that your decisions will be based on complete, accurate information.
- We have speakers available to address interested groups, including Hospice, Agencies on Aging, and church groups.
- We monitor state and federal funeral legislation and advocating for consumer protection in funeral affairs. This activity benefits both members and non-members alike.
- We keep members informed of the need for anatomical gift-giving of organs, tissues or bodies for transplant, teaching, and research.
- We act to increase consumer awareness about funeral practices and problems.
- We are associated with the national Funeral Consumers Alliance which serves as an umbrella organization for all of the individual funeral consumer groups around the country. Their website provides links to other Associations for your family to contact for help in case you die away from the Tampa Bay area.

Their website also provides access to a number of brochures and pamphlets about many different aspects of funeral planning.

They are also the clearing house for consumer complaints in funeral transactions and can assist you in filing a complaint with the appropriate state and federal agencies. Our organization serves as your advocate to them.