



*SAVE THE DATE*  
*CMS Annual Meeting*  
*Sunday, October 13, 2024 ♦ 2:00 -4:00 pm*  
Cuyahoga Public Library, Independence Branch  
5361 Selig Drive, Independence, OH 44131

*Green Burials*

*“Embracing Natural Burial to Preserve and Protect Land”*

Imagine returning to the natural cycle, giving your body back to the earth as generations have for thousands of years. At Foxfield Preserve, Ohio’s first conservation burial ground, we provide natural burials – also known as ‘green burials’ – in harmony with nature.

Join us as we hear a fascinating presentation by Barbara Yoder, Operations Associate, as she addresses this topic and answers all of your questions.

Light Refreshments Offered  
Open to all members and guests.

**What Happens When You Can’t Afford To Die?**

All people have the right to a personalized and respectful service that memorializes their life on earth. Indigent Burial Programs help ensure, as a community, that everyone who exits this life and enters the next, is surrounded by people that care about them.

Matthew Whisman runs a one-of-a-kind program in Louisville, KY that provides burial and cremation services for individuals who do not have the financial resources or family to provide them. Come learn about this Indigent Burial Program in this free-of-charge webinar, and find ways you may be able to support your local community. Join this informative online webinar presented by the Funeral Consumers Alliance on

May 22 from 8 - 9:30 p.m. EST

To RSVP and learn more, go to:

<https://funerals.org/dignity-in-death-webinar/>

## What If I Die Out Of Town

Your survivors/travel companions should look online for the nearest Memorial Society. A list of all societies is at [www.funerals.org/affiliates](http://www.funerals.org/affiliates). This group may be called a "Funeral Consumer Alliance." Call them and ask what services are available on a reciprocal basis. Some groups are like our Society and have contracts with one or more local funeral directors. Others simply offer recommendations and advice. Flying a body on an airplane is expensive. The airlines, however, will allow you to carry cremated remains with you. Go to the website [www.funerals.org](http://www.funerals.org) or call our national office at 1-800-765-0107 for complete information.

**Suggestion** – Gather your Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare, your Living Will, and your Durable Power of Attorney. Go to a photocopy machine. Push the "Reduce" button on the copy machine. Make the copies of each of these documents as small as possible, but still readable, by copying the reduced version one or more times. Put the small copies next to your Memorial Society membership card which should be next to your driver's license, healthcare card and other identification. This way, you can carry your advance health care directive documents with you everywhere and at all times.



## What If I Die In Another Country

First, take some simple steps before you leave home. Leave a copy of your passport at home. Pack your reduced-size documents; a note stating what you want done with your remains and your Memorial Society card. Take them with you.



Before going abroad, register your itinerary and emergency contacts with the State Department. You can do this online at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov). Provide emergency contacts on your passport application and put them in your passport, too. Carry with you the names and phone numbers of your doctor and dentist.

If death occurs overseas, the traveling companion should contact the American Embassy or Consulate immediately. Do this before contacting the family in the U.S. A cablegram is sent from the American Embassy overseas post directly to the next-of-kin with official notification of the death and an outline of options available, along with costs. These options vary widely from one country to the next. The Department of State can be reached at 202-647-5225 or 202-647-4000 after 10 p.m. EST. The Overseas Citizens Services operates 24-hours. Call 202-647-5226.

**Now give this page to your daughter, son,  
grandchild, neighbor and/or friend so THAT PERSON  
will know what to do as well.**

## Saving the Planet, One Death at a Time

*If not traditional burial with a casket or a green burial without one, what then?*

Around 60% of Americans choose cremation: Nevada tops the charts at a staggering 82.3%, Ohio residents log in at 56.5%, and the state with the lowest percentage is Mississippi, at just 32.8%.

It is the most affordable of our choices. Many of us are now also contemplating the consequences of our body disposition choices. Should we be considering the effects our decisions have on future generations? Can thoughtful body disposition choices help save the planet?

FACT: Body composting returns the carbon matter contained in each human to the earth rather than releasing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

FACT: Traditional flame cremation requires 2-3 hours at more than 1800 degrees of heat per corpse, releasing 573 lbs of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. This is equal to driving 500 miles in a car, per Chemical and Engineering News.

FACT: Aquamation (aka “alkaline hydrolysis” or “resomation”) is done at far lower heat by using high pressure and chemicals that emulsify the body. Byproducts are biodegradable.

FACT: Aquamation usually costs about \$1,000 more than flame cremation.

FACT: Both types of cremation cost less than burial, even green burial, due to the cost of cemetery plots.

FACT: While cremated remains are considered sterile and harmless, they can deter plant root growth due to high pH levels and excess sodium. A soil cremation mixture designed to lower both of these can be purchased to create a safe way to use them in your garden or other natural areas.



### **If You Move**

PLEASE let us know if you move. Whether it is moving in with you son or daughter, across town, into assisted living, or out-of-state, we do not want to lose touch with you! Did you know that if you move to another area you can transfer your Memorial Society membership to your new locale, usually for free? We'll help you do that if only you tell us where you are going! Help us help you – and your family!

## What to do at the time of death

### Instructions to leave for the individuals who will be handling your arrangements

1. Call my Memorial Society funeral director.  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone number: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_ I am an organ donor. Call Lifebanc at (216) 752-5433.
3. \_\_\_ I have donated my body to \_\_\_\_\_ Medical School.
4. \_\_\_ I have chosen DIRECT CREMATION. You can expect my Memorial Society funeral director to provide these services under the Memorial Society contract:
  1. pick up the body
  2. arrange to have it cremated.
  3. return the ashes to you
  4. help prepare a death notice for the newspaper

Memorial Society funeral directors will provide other services at a reasonable cost, but anything beyond the above-listed services must be paid for separately. The 2024 price for Memorial Society direct cremation service is \$1200. It may be more at the time of my death.

5. \_\_\_ I have chosen DIRECT BURIAL. You can expect my Memorial Society funeral director to provide these services under the Memorial Society contract:
  1. pick up the body
  2. place the body in a container
  3. arrange to have the grave opened
  4. transport body to cemetery
  5. help prepare a death notice for the newspaper

Direct burial does not include embalming. Embalming may be required if the body is to be stored, shipped, or viewed. The 2018 price for Memorial Society direct burial services is \$1400. It may be more at the time of my death. All cemetery charges are extra, including cost of the plot, opening and closing the grave.

6. \_\_\_ Donations in lieu of flowers to:  
\_\_\_ Cleveland Memorial Society \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_
7. If you need a Death Certificate for financial or other institutions, your Funeral Director can provide one for additional cost.
8. Other special instructions:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Now print this sheet off and give it to the people who need to know.**

## Assigning an Agent to Control Body Disposition

Perhaps you are legally single, whether living with a partner or on your own. You need to provide for your body once you've died. Don't leave that important decision to unknown quantities.

Even if there is no statutory obligation in other states for survivors to honor specific written after deathcare instructions, it is better to have your wishes in writing than not at all. Courts routinely support all but the most outrageous wishes. Read to the end to see the law for Ohio.

The power to name a designated agent for body disposition is honored in all states. If you are estranged from your next-of-kin or were never married to your significant other, the designated agent law allows you to name someone other than a legal spouse or next of kin. Assigning an “**agent**”, “**representative**”, or “**appointed person**” can be useful when one individual is more inclined to follow your wishes than another, or to prevent conflict between family members of equal kinship.

Another reason for designating an agent is when circumstances change and it becomes appropriate to change funeral plans, too. One woman's father lived so long that none of his friends were left to come to a viewing. A public viewing for one person—just for her—didn't make sense. Or perhaps you planned on body donation to a medical school in Idaho but died while on a trip to New York. Should your estate pay for shipping your body back to Idaho, or would you trust a person you assigned to make appropriate alternative arrangements?

**IMPORTANT** — Your designated agent is not obligated in any state to carry out your wishes if they're highly impractical, illegal, or financially burdensome. It's very important for you and your agent to understand how much your wishes will cost, and to plan accordingly. You should not expect your designated agent to pay for a costly funeral if you don't set money aside for that expense.

**Last Word of Advice** — Many States allow you to place your funeral designations in your will. However a will usually isn't read until after services are well under way or completed. So consider drawing up a short, dated document ... as allowed by such and such code or statute. Date the document, have it witnessed or notarized, and make sure your survivors receive a copy.

**Ohio.** Effective in 2006, Ohio citizens may designate anyone they wish to make funeral, cremation, or anatomical donations of their bodies after death. This right can be found in 2108.70 of the Ohio Code. It must be signed by a notary or two witnesses not related to you. In OH the next of kin equally inherit the right, all collectively must agree, whereas other states only require majority.

Here is a link to the form needed for Ohio:

<https://funerals.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Ohio-Designated-Agent-Form.pdf>



Cleveland Memorial Society  
21600 Shaker Boulevard  
Cleveland, OH 44122

Phone: 216-751-5515  
[www.clevememorialsociety.org](http://www.clevememorialsociety.org)

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44022

**DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY**

***CMS is proud to have the following Funeral Directors  
as our contracted partners***

***Best Funeral Home***  
15809 Madison Road  
Middlefield, OH 44062  
(440) 632-0818

***Busch Funeral and  
Crematory Services***  
4334 Pearl Road  
Cleveland, OH 44109  
216-741-7700

***Cummings & Davis Funeral  
Home***  
13201 Euclid Avenue  
East Cleveland, OH 44112  
216-541-1111

***Dicken Funeral Home***  
323 Middle Ave.  
Elyria, OH 44035  
440-322-3224

***Fioritto Funeral Home***  
5236 Mayfield Road  
Lyndhurst, OH 44124  
440-442-5900

***Hummel Funeral Homes***  
500 East Exchange St.  
Akron, OH 44304  
330-253-6126

***Maher-Melbourne Funeral  
Home***  
5236 Mayfield Road  
Lyndhurst, OH 44124  
216-382-4500

***Malloy Memorial Service***  
1575 W. 117th Street  
Cleveland, OH 44107  
216-221-3380

***McMahon-Coyne-Vitantonio  
Funeral Home***  
6330 Center Street  
Mentor, OH 44060  
440-255-1655

***Strawbridge Memorial  
Chapel***  
3934 Lee Rd.  
Cleveland, OH 44128  
216-752-9801

***Thompson, Smith,  
Nesbitt Funeral Home***  
345 Main Street  
Conneaut, OH 44030  
440-599-8106