

## Funeral costs in South Somerset

### Background

After hearing of clients that found themselves in debt after arranging a funeral, we began some research in 2016 into the costs associated with a funeral. We would recommend thinking about your funeral in advance and ensuring your loved ones know what you would like; basic information about arranging a funeral, including help with costs, can be found at

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/family/death-and-wills/funeral-services/arranging-a-funeral/>.

We got in touch with the Fair Funerals Campaign, which asks funeral directors to:

- Recognise that funerals can be expensive and many people struggle with the cost.
- Help people to find funerals that are within their means.
- Be open about their most affordable options, including third party costs:
  - in initial conversations
  - within their price lists
  - on their website.

The Fair Funerals website provides details of signatories to the Fair Funeral Pledge in our area (see website below).

If you cannot afford to pay for the funeral the local authority or health authority will arrange a simple funeral and try to recover the costs from the estate of the deceased.

### Alternative funerals

A Direct Cremation is a modern alternative to a traditional cremation funeral. The cremation takes place completely separately from the personal farewell and our families use the ashes urn or a favourite photograph as their focal point for their own special remembrance event. It's perfect for people who don't like funerals.

Since our initial research in 2016 there has been a boom in Natural Burials, these offer a cheaper alternative to traditional interment and are often of a non-religious format. Natural burial grounds can be found in a variety of settings – in woodlands or in meadows, and many funeral directors offer this service alongside the more traditional kind.

### **Note:**

*Some religious groups require funerals to be carried out in their own burial sites and this may incur additional costs.*

### Useful websites

Citizens Advice public site: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/relationships/death-and-wills/funeral-services/>

Government website: <https://www.gov.uk/browse/benefits/bereavement>

Burials in South Somerset: <https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/life-events/me-and-my-family/i-ve-suffered-a-bereavement/>

Fairer Funerals campaign: <https://fairfuneralscampaign.org.uk/map>

Natural Death Centre: <http://www.naturaldeath.org.uk/>

South West Cremations: <http://southwestcremations.co.uk/>

Pure Cremations: <https://www.purecremation.co.uk/>