

Frequently Asked Questions for Cremation

Is cremation more expensive than burial?

No. Generally the cost of a grave is much higher than the fee charged for cremation although the funeral charges are similar for both services. The only additional charge for cremation arises when the death has not been referred to a coroner and two doctors need to be paid for the necessary certificates. This does not apply to burial.

What religious ceremony can I have with cremation?

The service for burial and cremation is the same apart from the form of committal sentences. The service may take place at your own place of worship with a short committal service in the crematorium chapel, or you may have the whole service at the crematorium chapel. Alternatively, you may prefer a civil ceremony be conducted, or even no service at all.

How is a cremation arranged?

The Cremation Regulations are complex and many people approach a funeral director immediately death occurs and advise him that they wish to arrange a cremation. The funeral director will ensure that all the necessary statutory forms for cremation are obtained and presented to the Crematorium.

Can a cremation be arranged without the services of a funeral director?

Yes. The Executor or nearest surviving relative may arrange the cremation service themselves. We are members of the Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management's (ICCM) Charter for the Bereaved and can provide advice to persons arranging a cremation without the use of a funeral director.

Can relatives witness the committal of the coffin to the cremator?

Yes. We have a viewing window that overlooks the crematory, where you may witness the committal taking place. We must be informed that you wish to witness the committal when the cremation is booked when the service is booked and staff will then make the necessary preparations on the day.

Is the coffin cremated with the body?

Yes. The ICCM Guiding Principles state that the container and the body shall be placed in cremator and cremation commenced. The coffin or container with the body inside shall not be opened or otherwise disturbed, other than in exceptional circumstances, and then only with the express permission and in the presence of the Applicant for Cremation (usually the executor or next of kin).

How soon after the service will the cremation take place?

The ICCM Guiding Principles state that the container and the body shall be placed in a cremator and cremation commenced no later than 72 hours after the service of committal. You will be asked by the Funeral Director whether you agree to our Environmental Policy where you will allow us to hold the coffin over to the following day for cremation. The benefits to the community from this include a reduced impact on the environment as less fossil fuel will be consumed and the efficient use of machinery and equipment will be achieved.

How are cremated remains kept separate?

A cremator can only accept one coffin at a time and all the remains are removed from the cremator before the next cremation. An identity card is used throughout the whole process until the final disposal, thereby ensuring correct identification.

What happens to the cremated remains after cremation?

The law relating to cremation requires that cremated remains are disposed of in accordance with the written instructions of the applicant (usually the executor or nearest surviving relative). We have several options for families to choose from, please refer to our memorials page for details.

Memorials can be arranged by booking an appointment with the team at rainsbrook@rugby.gov.uk or telephoning the team on 01788 533715.

Cremated remains may also be buried in family graves that are full for coffined burials. Alternatively you may be able to purchase a new cremated remains grave.

There is no need to make a hurried decision with regard the final resting place of the remains. If you are unsure what you would like to do the applicant for the funeral can request that we hold the ashes for a short period (normally no more than 3 months). We are able to hold longer than 3 months for the fee specified in our fees and charges.

We may write to you at some point to ask if you are ready to go ahead with the final resting place, however, if you are not ready simply inform us of this. If we do not receive a reply to our letter please be aware that we may legally scatter or bury the cremated remains in our grounds after giving two weeks written notice of this. Please keep us updated with any change of address as we will write to the applicant at the address given at the time of the service.

Can more than one body be cremated at a time?

No, each cremation is carried out separately. The aperture through which the coffin passes in the cremator and the cremation chamber are of dimensions that will only safely accept one coffin. However, exceptions can be made in the case of a mother and baby or small twin children, so long as the next of kin or executor has made this specific request.

Are coffins sold back to funeral directors for re-use?

No. The coffin and the body inside are cremated together.

Can I visit a crematorium and see what happens behind the scenes?

Yes. We can arrange for such a visit if given prior notice. Please email details to rainsbrook@rugby.gov.uk. Visits can often help dispel the myths that surround cremations and explain the process to families so that you can be sure that you receive the correct cremated remains.