

12 FOOLISH REASONS TO IGNORE PRE-NEED ARRANGEMENTS WHEN CREMATION IS YOUR CHOICE

1. My family knows I want to be cremated.

Though you may have told your family that you want to be cremated, and you may have included your wishes in your will, there is still no guarantee that your wishes will be carried out. Wills are normally not read until after a funeral service has taken place and family members don't always remember verbal instruction during a time of grief. The only way to guarantee that your wishes will be carried out is to put them on paper in a pre-need arrangement.

2. I don't care what they do with me after I'm dead.

Even though you may not care, your family will. Your family's job will be much harder if you don't have instructions and guidance written down and pre-arranged. Because when there is a death in the family, decisions tend to be colored by grief and not governed by reason. Your family may choose burial instead of cremation – and that was not what you wanted.

3. I don't want a funeral and that is why I want to be cremated.

Cremation is gaining in popularity because it can be simpler, less emotional, and more economical than a traditional burial. But when you choose cremation, you haven't necessarily eliminated the need for a funeral service. Family and friends may still want to mark the occasion of a death in the family, to share memories, their love and their loss. Funerals are for the living and are a necessary part of the mourning process. So, even though you don't want a funeral, you need to give your family and friends the opportunity to celebrate your life and share their memories.

4. Let someone else make the plans. I have more important things to think about.

What you are really saying is that you don't want to think about your own death, and that is understandable. But, have you ever purchased accident insurance, fire insurance, hospitalization, or life insurance? You don't ever expect to have to use them, but you simply don't want to leave things to chance. When you die without pre-arrangements, just like dying without insurance, you place an enormous burden on your family. If you make your own decisions now, the burden on your family will be much lighter.

5. Okay, I'll make my arrangements for cremation. That way, I've taken care of everything.

No, you haven't. You need to decide what kind of service you prefer, and what you want done with your cremated remains after cremation. *Only you can answer these questions.* You should include these decisions in your pre-arrangements. Often times, families don't know what to do with the cremated remains and end up storing them at home on a closet shelf because **you** didn't make that final decision.

6. I want to be scattered on the golf course, at the beach, or in my garden.

What are the options for my cremated remains in California? Basically, of these three, only one is permitted by law. Your cremated remains can be scattered in your garden, but not in any public places. You can also scatter the cremated remains at sea or have them placed in a cemetery lot or niche. Most people are unaware of these regulations. Don't leave your family in the dark over this final important decision.



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7. My family would never come to visit me.

You may feel that way now, but you don't know how your future generations will feel. Even your own children may surprise you and want a place to associate with your memory. Many people are comforted knowing they have a specific place dedicated to the memory of their loved one. Family members often visit graves to bring them closer to their loved one. We may not fully understand this, but we all know these feelings do exist.

8. Visiting a family grave never gave me a feeling of comfort.

Not all people are the same, and just because this never worked for you, does not mean that it won't work for other family members. Don't deny your family the comfort they might gain from having a place to visit. Ask your family how they feel. Then, you can make the final decision that will be comforting to you as well as your family.

9. I think land should be used for the living.

You don't have to compromise your ideals in order to choose a permanent place for your cremated remains.

Cemeteries are aware of the need to conserve land and the equally important need to memorialize a loved one. Many cemeteries now offer urn gardens, columbariums, and scattering areas. None of these take much land, but they treat cremated remains with the dignity and respect that is deserved.

An **urn garden** is a small area set aside within a cemetery for the burial of cremated remains. Each space is only about one square foot and can have a small headstone to permanently mark the site.

A **columbarium** is a building similar to a mausoleum which houses only cremated remains. Like a multistoried office building, it uses very little space and can accommodate many urns. There are also outdoor columbariums that are sometimes called **niche walls**. Families can place the cremated remains in a niche and also have an inscription on the front to honor the memory of a loved one.

10. I really want my ashes scattered.

Another choice is a **scattering garden** where many cremated remains can be scattered in one place. Scattering gardens are well-landscaped sections set aside for people who prefer the "going back to nature" that scattering signifies. This allows the family to visit a consecrated place that can be associated with the loved one. Memorialization is not normally allowed in these areas.

11. Cremation is cheap, so I'm not worried about the financial burden on my family.

Cremation can be less expensive than burial. But the cost of cremation, like everything else in the world, is affected by inflation, rising labor and equipment costs, and even the marketplace. You can guarantee your pre-arrangements by paying for them in advance at today's cost.

12. I need more information before I can make a decision.

That's what we are here to do. You can call us at 760-726-2555 (Vista Chapel) or 760-744-4522 (San Marcos Chapel) or come by the office and we'll be glad to show you the many options available to you with cremation. **We can schedule an appointment to come to your home if this option better serves your needs.**

