

McCray Family Funeral Service Expands Service Options and Adds Planning Resource

September 08, 2026

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McCray Family Funeral Service & Cremation has expanded its range of affordable funerals and cremations in Atlanta, adding service options at varying price points and publishing an online resource on funeral and cremation planning.

The expanded options give families more choices between a direct cremation and a traditional service with visitation, according to the company. Representatives said families often assume the decision is between those two, and that the added arrangements fall between them.

Cost is discussed early in the arrangement process, according to representatives. They said families making arrangements after a death are frequently doing so without knowing what services cost, and that itemized pricing is reviewed before selections are made, rather than presented at the end.

Federal rules require funeral homes to provide itemized price lists, according to the company. Representatives said families can select individual services rather than accepting a package, and that the resource explains this because many families are unaware of it.

Families searching for affordable funerals and cremations in Atlanta often begin during the days immediately after a death, according to representatives. They said the resource was written to be readable in that circumstance, with short sections addressing specific questions rather than material requiring extended reading.

Preplanning is covered separately, according to the company. Representatives said arrangements made in advance allow decisions to be considered without time pressure, and that the resource describes what preplanning involves and what it does and does not lock in.

Cremation has become more common in the region, according to representatives. They said this reflects both cost and changing preferences around ceremony, and that families choosing cremation still have a wide

range of options for how and whether to hold a service.

Memorial services can follow a cremation at any point, according to the company. Representatives said families sometimes assume choosing cremation means forgoing a gathering, and that a service can be scheduled weeks later to allow relatives to travel.

The resource covers required documentation as well, according to representatives. They said death certificates, permits and related paperwork are handled by the funeral home, and that the material describes what families need to provide and what is managed on their behalf.

Veterans benefits are addressed in a separate section, according to the company. Representatives said eligible families may qualify for burial benefits they are unaware of, and that determining eligibility is part of the arrangement conversation.

Community events and seminars accompany the resource, according to representatives. They said these cover end-of-life planning generally and are open to people not currently making arrangements.

Payment arrangements are discussed during the process as well, according to the company. Representatives said families sometimes face costs they had not anticipated, and that available payment options and any applicable assistance programs are reviewed rather than left for families to find on their own.

Insurance assignment is covered in the resource, according to representatives. They said families holding a policy intended to cover funeral costs often do not know how proceeds are applied or how long they take to arrive, and that the material describes how assignment generally works.

Transportation across state lines requires additional arrangements, according to the company. Representatives said families sometimes need to move a loved one to or from another state for burial, and that requirements and timing differ from local arrangements.

Religious and cultural observances are accommodated within the arrangement process, according to representatives. They said requirements around timing and handling vary considerably, and that these are established at the outset rather than worked around later.

The company said it plans to add material as families raise questions. Representatives said no publication schedule has been set, and that sections are added when a subject comes up consistently.

Families interested in the resource or in discussing arrangements can find information through the McCray Family Funeral Service & Cremation website.

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