

Washington Funeral Resources & Education
Making Washington Home Funeral Information Easy to Find

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**New Public Information Website Launches to Educate Families & Professionals
About Washingtonians' Rights When Death Occurs**

[Washington Funeral Resources & Education](#), a new non-commercial, public interest website launches this month. Dedicated to providing Washingtonians with information about their legal rights and resources when death occurs, [WashingtonFuneral.org](#) helps Washington consumers care for their own dead with or without the assistance of a funeral director. The website is for anyone wishing to avoid unnecessary expenditures for funeral products and services they don't want or need, and for those wanting to explore the continuum of hands-on after-death care options, including home funerals and green burial.

In Washington State, no one is required to purchase the services of a funeral director or funeral home when a death occurs. Under Washington law, families may conduct many or all tasks commonly performed by a funeral home. Many people don't know about the rights of families to care for their dead—even many first responders, care facilities, and funeral industry pros. That's why [WashingtonFuneral.org](#), a new, free public information website, is being [lauded by medical and funeral industry leaders](#) as a much-needed resource for both families and professionals.

Dr. Allie Massaro describes the website as “a remarkable resource” and says, “I plan to share it with our social workers and my physician colleagues, as we often lack information as to how to guide families through non-traditional processes.”

The website is modeled off of [Oregon Funeral Resources & Education](#), which has spurred changes in hospital [body release](#) and [family information](#) policies. [Washington Funeral Resources & Education](#) has already expanded access for Washingtonians wanting to handle death certificate filing without hiring a funeral director, as provided under Washington law. After outreach to the Washington Department of Health to highlight the discrepancy between Washingtonian's rights under the law and the current practice of restricting filing to professionals with EDRS access, DOH published a clarification titled [Families Acting as Funeral Directors](#). (Details on the Washington Funeral Resources & Education [blog](#).)

In addition to detailing [death care law in Washington](#), [WashingtonFuneral.org](#) walks readers through the [practical “How Tos”](#) of whichever aspects of after-death care they want to handle, and provides guidance in [how consumers can get what they want from professionals they hire](#) or authorities they encounter when a death occurs. The site provides an overview of [what's meant by the term “home funeral,”](#) a [glossary of terms](#), and [informative stories](#) of how others have cared for their dead and concise, [professionally-specific in-service training materials](#) along with resources for use in [community education](#).

Washington Funeral Resources and Education @ WashingtonFuneral.org is a non-commercial public interest website dedicated to helping Washington consumers care for their own dead with or without the assistance of a funeral director. The site is provided as a public service by White Eagle Memorial Preserve and Sacred Earth Foundation in Goldendale. Like its Oregon predecessor, Washington Funeral Resources and Education is based on the New Hampshire Funeral Resources & Education website concept developed by Lee Webster and is expected to serve as a model for replication in other states.

See also:

- [Media Page](#) for full News Release, Public Service Announcement, “What People Are Saying”
- [Stories](#) of family- and community-directed funerals conducted by Washingtonians
- [Printable Informational Flyer](#)
- [Printable Home Funeral Facts Card](#)
- [Information for Professionals](#)

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- [Interviews available with families](#) whose stories are featured on the site