

Example of A Funeral Home's General Price List in New York State

*Prepared by the Funeral Consumers Alliance of the Finger Lakes
www.fingerlakesfunerals.org
August 2011*

The generic General Price List (GPL) that begins on page 2 of this document shows the information and statements that the GPL of any funeral home in New York State must contain and the order in which the services and merchandise offered for sale must be presented. This document is not an official publication of any government agency or provider of funeral goods and services. It is provided as an information source for people who will need to learn how to read an actual General Price List.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC), through its Funeral Rule, requires that every funeral home give to customers and others who request it a General Price List that discloses prices and other information in specific ways. The minimum informational content of a GPL, but not its format, is specified by the Rule.

The FTC has published generic price lists that show how a funeral home can comply with the Funeral Rule. The prices of all of the services and merchandise that the business offers for sale must be listed, but the business is not required to offer all of the items covered by the Funeral Rule or shown in our example. Any funeral home may offer additional services and merchandise.

The New York State Department of Health imposes requirements that are more detailed than those of the Funeral Rule. All GPLs in New York State must present the prices of services and merchandise in a similar order and must contain state-mandated disclosures that sometimes differ in wording from those required by the FTC. The state requirements result in some redundant statements on GPLs—one form of a statement as mandated by the state, the other form as mandated by the FTC. Our generic GPL reflects these dual requirements and identifies FTC-mandated statements thus: "FTC—."

To view a model General Price List at the Federal Trade Commission's website, go to: <http://business.ftc.gov/documents/bus05-complying-funeral-rule>

To locate and read New York State Department of Health regulations for funeral homes' General Price Lists, go to: <http://w3.health.state.ny.us/>

ABC FUNERAL HOME

100 Main Street
Anytown, NY, USA 12345
(123) 456-7890

GENERAL PRICE LIST

These prices are effective as of [date].

The goods and services shown below are those we can provide to our customers. You may choose only the items you desire. If legal or other requirements mean you must buy any items you did not specifically ask for, we will explain the reason in writing on the statement we provide describing the funeral services and merchandise you selected.

FTC– The goods and services shown below are those we can provide to our customers. You may choose only the items you desire. However, any funeral arrangements you select will include a charge for our basic services and overhead. If legal or other requirements mean you must buy any items you did not specifically ask for, we will explain the reason in writing on the statement we provide describing the funeral goods and services you selected.

This list may not include prices for certain items that you select, such as cemetery charges or crematory services, flowers and newspaper notices. The estimated or final prices for those items will be shown on the itemized statement describing the funeral services and merchandise you selected. We charge you for our services in buying certain items.

Alternative services

Direct Cremation..... \$_____ to \$_____

Our charge for a direct cremation (without ceremony) includes: basic services of funeral director and staff, a proportionate share of overhead costs, removal of remains, transportation to crematory, necessary authorizations, and return of cremains to the funeral home.

If you want to arrange a direct cremation, you may use an unfinished wooden box or an alternative container. Alternative containers can be made of heavy cardboard, pressed wood or composition materials (with or without an outside covering), or may be pouches of canvas or other materials. The direct cremation prices do not include the crematory charge.

FTC–If you want to arrange a direct cremation, you can use an alternative container.

Alternative containers encase the body and can be made of materials like fiberboard or composition materials (with or without an outside covering). The containers we provide are a fiberboard container or an unfinished wood box.

Direct cremation with container provided by the purchaser \$_____

Direct cremation with a fiberboard container \$_____

Direct cremation with an unfinished wood box..... \$_____

Direct Burial [Immediate burial in FTC language] \$_____ to \$_____

Our charge for an immediate burial (without ceremony) includes: basic services of funeral director and staff, a proportionate share of overhead costs, removal of remains, necessary authorizations, and local transportation to cemetery. The direct burial prices do not include cemetery charges or any charge for an outer interment receptacle (required by many cemeteries).

Direct burial with casket provide by purchaser..... \$ _____
Direct burial with alternative container \$ _____
Direct burial with cloth covered wood casket \$ _____

Transfer of Remains to the Funeral Home (within ____ mile radius) \$ _____
Beyond this radius we charge ____ per mile. Price includes personnel, equipment, and vehicle.

Preparation of remains

Embalming (including use of preparation room) \$ _____
Embalming of autopsied remains \$ _____

In New York State, embalming is not required by law. If you do not want embalming, you have the right to choose an arrangement which does not require you to pay for embalming, such as direct cremation or direct burial. If you select certain funeral arrangements, such as viewing or an open casket funeral, embalming may be required by the funeral firm.

FTC—Except in certain special cases, embalming is not required by law. Embalming may be necessary, however, if you select certain funeral arrangements, such as a funeral with viewing. If you do not want embalming, you usually have the right to choose an arrangement that does not require you to pay for it, such as direct cremation or immediate burial.

Other preparation (excluding embalming)

Preparation of the remains, unless selected, is not required for direct cremation or for direct burial.

Topical disinfection \$ _____
Custodial care (per day)..... \$ _____
Custodial care is charged beginning on the ____ day after the remains are received at the funeral home. Custodial care will not be charged on the days when embalming or other preparation of the remains occurs, visitation is held, or a funeral service is conducted.
Dressing/casketing \$ _____
Cosmetology male/female \$ _____ / _____
Restoration (per hour or part thereof) \$ _____

Arrangements

Basic services of funeral director and staff and overhead.....\$ _____

These services include: availability of staff, equipment, and facilities at all times; conducting the arrangements conference; planning the funeral; consulting with family and clergy; shelter of remains; preparing and filing of necessary notices; obtaining necessary authorizations and permits; coordinating with the cemetery, crematory, or other third parties. In addition, this fee includes a proportionate share of our basic overhead costs. The charge for our services will be added to the total cost of the funeral arrangements you select. However, this charge will not be added to the cost for direct cremation, direct burial, forwarding of remains, or receiving of remains because the prices for those services include this charge.

FTC—This fee is already included in our charges for direct cremations, immediate burials, and forwarding or receiving remains.

Supervision (funeral director and staff)

- Supervision for visitation or viewing \$ _____
- Supervision for funeral ceremony \$ _____
- Supervision for memorial ceremony \$ _____
- Supervision for graveside ceremony \$ _____
- Supervision for disinterment \$ _____

Use of funeral home’s facilities for:

- Visitation or viewing \$ _____
- Funeral ceremony \$ _____
- Memorial ceremony..... \$ _____

Equipment and setup for graveside service or ceremony at another facility \$ _____

FTC—Use of facilities and staff for viewing at the funeral home \$ _____

FTC—Use of facilities and staff for funeral ceremony at the funeral home \$ _____

FTC—Use of facilities and staff for memorial service at the funeral home \$ _____

FTC—Use of equipment and staff for graveside service \$ _____

Livery

Hearse \$ _____

Limousine \$ _____

Alternative vehicle (station wagon or van) \$ _____

Flower vehicle \$ _____

Passenger car \$ _____

Mileage charge of \$ _____ per mile per vehicle will be added for distances greater than _____ miles.

Merchandise

Caskets and alternative containers \$ _____ to \$ _____

A complete price list will be provided at the funeral home.

[Some funeral homes present the casket price list within the General Price List.]

Outer burial containers \$ _____ to \$ _____

A complete price list will be provided at the funeral home.

[Some funeral homes present the outer burial container (vault) price list within the General Price List.]

Additional services and merchandise

The prices in this section include a charge for our services in buying these items.

Printed memorial cards (per hundred) \$ _____

Acknowledgement cards (per hundred) \$ _____

Register book \$ _____

Burial shroud \$ _____
Other (listed as above)

Limited services

Forwarding of remains to another funeral home \$ _____

Our charge includes: basic services of funeral director and staff; a proportionate share of overhead costs; removal of remains; embalming or other preparation of remains, if relevant; securing necessary authorizations, and local transportation. Shipping charges will be billed as a cash advance.

Receiving remains from another funeral home \$ _____

Our charge includes: basic services of funeral director and staff, a proportionate share of overhead costs, securing necessary authorizations, care of remains, local transportation of remains to funeral home and to cemetery or crematory. Any transportation by common carrier will be billed as a cash advance.

Cash advances

Services and merchandise provided as cash advance items will be billed at the same amount paid by the funeral firm. Cash advance items may include but are not limited to: chevra kadisha (Tahara), obituary, flowers, clergy, organist, gratuities, escorts, cemetery or crematory charges, certified copies of death certificate, transportation by common carrier, bridge and road tolls, telephone charges.

*Prepared by the
Funeral Consumers Alliance of the Finger Lakes,
a nonprofit consumer education organization.
www.fingerlakesfunerals.org
August 2011*