

A CHRISTIAN APPROACH TO DEATH AND BURIAL

# Lay Me in God's Good Earth

KENT BURRESON AND BETH HOELTKE

**RESOURCES SUPPLEMENT**



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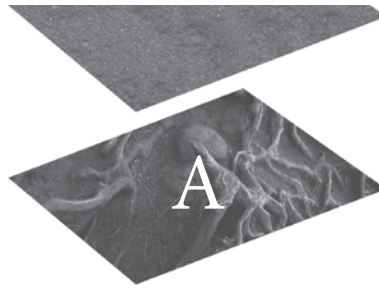
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Tools  
and  
Resources



# Our Final Journey: A Burial Planning Guide

## Pre-death Decisions

Care before death (if needed):

- Prefer care at home       Palliative care  
 Prefer care at hospital       Hospice care  
 Rehabilitation facility if necessary

Death doula, midwife, or  
home funeral guide:

Death care consultant  
(point person) (death guide):

## My Funeral Plans

Record your final journey here to assist your pastor and family members in making the final arrangements and burial you desire.

- I have a will.       I do not have a will.

Location of will:

Executor of will:

Prepared by:

I have a prepaid funeral plan.

Provider's name, address,  
and phone number:

Plan number or other  
identifier:

Location of documents:

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**Arrangements should be made by:**

**NAMES AND PHONE NUMBERS**

My spouse:

My parents:

My children:

A sibling:

Other:

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**Preferred funeral home (if these services are desired)**

Please check to ensure that your state allows for a funeral to be facilitated without a licensed funeral director. As of 2023, the list of states that require families to use a licensed funeral director are as follows: CT, IA, IL, IN, LA, MI, NE, NJ, and NY.

Name:

Address:

Phone number:

Web address:

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**Body preparation preferences (Check all that apply)**

- Washed    Anointed    Makeup applied    Hair washed

---

**Body preservation preferences (Check all that apply)**

- Dry ice    Techni Ice or ice packs    Chemical embalming  
 Non-toxic embalming

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**Body or organ donation preferences (Check all that apply)**

- Organs: kidneys (2), liver, lungs (2), heart, pancreas, intestines, hands, and face  
 Corneas: you can donate your corneas when you sign up for an organ, eye, or tissue donation  
 Tissues: corneas, middle ear, skin, heart valves, bone, veins, cartilage, tendons, and ligaments  
 Blood stem cells, cord blood, and bone marrow: blood stem cells only if you are between the age of eighteen and sixty  
 Blood and platelets: tiny parts of cells that help blood clot  
 Full body donation

I have registered to donate  
my body/organs to:

They will return my remains (ashes), if allowed, which should be:

- Interred in mausoleum    Interred in burial plot    Retained by family

Other:

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### Clothing preferences

No clothing/shroud only

Clothing choice:

Jewelry:

Remain with body

Return to:

Eyeglasses:

Remain with body

Return to:

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### Viewing/visitation preferences

Only by family/private

Only prior to the funeral service

Visitation/viewing

At the home of the deceased

At the funeral home

At the church

Other:

Funeral service  
items:

Flower preferences:

Donation suggestion  
(In lieu of flowers):

Reception following  
funeral:

## My Church Plans

### Congregation membership

Congregation where  
I am a member:

Address:

Phone number:

Pastor(s) of the  
congregation:

### Funeral service preference

- Funeral ceremony at place of worship     Funeral ceremony at funeral home  
 Funeral ceremony at home     Private funeral  
 Public funeral     Military funeral  
 Casket, open or closed:

### Funeral service presiding pastor, liturgist, and/or preacher

First choice and phone number:

Second choice and phone number:

### Funeral service

Name of church:

Other location:

- Celebration of Eucharist, Lord's Supper

Other elements  
you would like  
to consider for  
inclusion in  
service:

.....  
**Readings from Scripture**

Scripture passages chosen for the service should reflect the confession of your baptismal life. They should bear witness to your story as a child of God as it is surrounded by the story of God, your Father, rescuing you from sin and death through the life and resurrection of the Son of God. The readings chosen should reflect your life lived as one redeemed by Christ the Crucified.

Key passages that reflect the creation and salvation baptismal narrative by which you are a child of God include Psalms 23; 25:1-5, 15-20; 42; 65:1-8; 118:1-21; 121; 130.

*Old Testament readings:* Job 19:21-27; Isaiah 25:6-9; 61:1-3, 10; Lamentations 3:22-33, Ezekiel 37:1-10.

*Second readings:* Romans 8:31-39; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 51-57; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Peter 1:3-9; 1 John 3:1-2; Revelation 7:9-17; 14:13; 21:1-7.

*Gospel readings:* Matthew 5:1-12; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 2:25-32; John 5:24-30; 6:27-40; 10:11-16; 14:1-6.

**YOUR CHOICES**

**Old Testament reading:**

**Second reading:**

**Gospel reading:**

**SELECTION OF READERS**

**Name and phone number:**

**Name and phone number:**

**Name and phone number:**

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## Hymn choices

Hymns chosen for the service also should bear witness to God the Father, the Creator of your life, his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who is your life now and through death, and the Holy Spirit, who will breathe new life into your body on the day of your resurrection. The hymns should reflect your own personal confession of faith (hymns of importance to you throughout your life) and also reflect on God, who is your life and salvation.

### PREFERRED HYMN CHOICES

Entrance hymn:

Hymn of the day:

Sending hymn:

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## Choir participation

Yes or No  
If yes, preference  
for choral piece:

Soloist:

Other instrumental  
options:

---

## Pallbearer suggestions

Name and phone number:

Name and phone number:

Name and phone number:

Name and phone number:

Name and phone number:

## Handling of the Body

### Desire for handling of the body:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natural burial                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Shroud with/without coffin or casket                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Casket (rectangular box)                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Traditional casket (nonbiodegradable)                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coffin (six- or eight-sided container)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Cremation   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cardboard                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Flame-based cremation with/without container              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Woven fiber (basket, seagrass, and the like) | <input type="checkbox"/> Alkaline hydrolysis cremation                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Softwood (pine, etc.)                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Choose a cremation technology that recycles medical parts |

### Burial options

#### GROUND NATURAL BURIAL

I have purchased a plot (specify cemetery and plot number):

I would like to be buried on my property\* (provide location):

*\*Interment on personal property is regulated by state and local ordinances. Please check with your state and local authorities.*

- Natural burial ground within 500 miles of my home
- Natural burial ground within 1,000 miles of my home

#### MODERN GROUND BURIAL

I have purchased a plot (specify cemetery and plot number):

I would like to be buried on my property (provide location):

Interred at national cemetery (eligible veterans and eligible family members):

Interred in a mausoleum (specify location):

I have purchased a crypt (specify location and number):

#### CREMATION REMAINS

Interred in mausoleum (specify location):

Interred in burial plot (specify location and plot number):

Other:

- Military national cemetery     Burial at sea

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### Marker or headstone preference

#### HEADSTONE (SPECIFY TYPE)

- Monument                       Bronze plaque on granite base  
 Bronze plaque                   Granite plaque

Desired inscription:

- Tree as marker                   Rock as marker

Desired inscription:

- Wildflowers or native plants planted on or near the grave site instead of marker  
 No marker on top of grave

## My Personal Information

### The celebration of your baptism and confirmation

Name given at baptism:

Date of baptism:

Season in the church  
year of baptism (i.e.,  
Pentecost):

Date of confirmation:

Confirmation verse:

### Personal data *(Information for death certificate, obituary, etc.)*

#### FULL LEGAL NAME

First name	Middle name	Last name	Suffix (Sr., Jr., II, etc.)

#### OTHER NAMES BY WHICH YOU MAY BE KNOWN

First name	Middle name	Last name	Suffix (Sr., Jr., II, etc.)

Male  Female

Social Security number:

Date of birth:

City and state of birth:

Ethnic or cultural heritage:

Maiden name (if applicable):

Mother's maiden name and place of birth:

Father's name and place of birth:

Married

Single

Divorced

Name of surviving spouse:

Wedding date and place:

Military branch of service\*:

Name of war if applicable:

Date when discharged:

Rank/rate when discharged:

*\*For additional information about military burial and honors for veterans, see the end of this planner.*

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### Other personal information/identification numbers

Driver's license number/state:

Visa number:

Passport number:

Green card number:





**PRECEDED IN DEATH BY**

<b>First name</b>	<b>Middle name</b>	<b>Last name</b>	<b>Relationship</b>	<b>Date of birth/ date of death</b>

.....  
**Obituary: thoughts for possible inclusion**

**Newspapers (name):**

**Online (name service):**

**List hobbies and  
personal interests:**

**Memberships in  
organizations:**

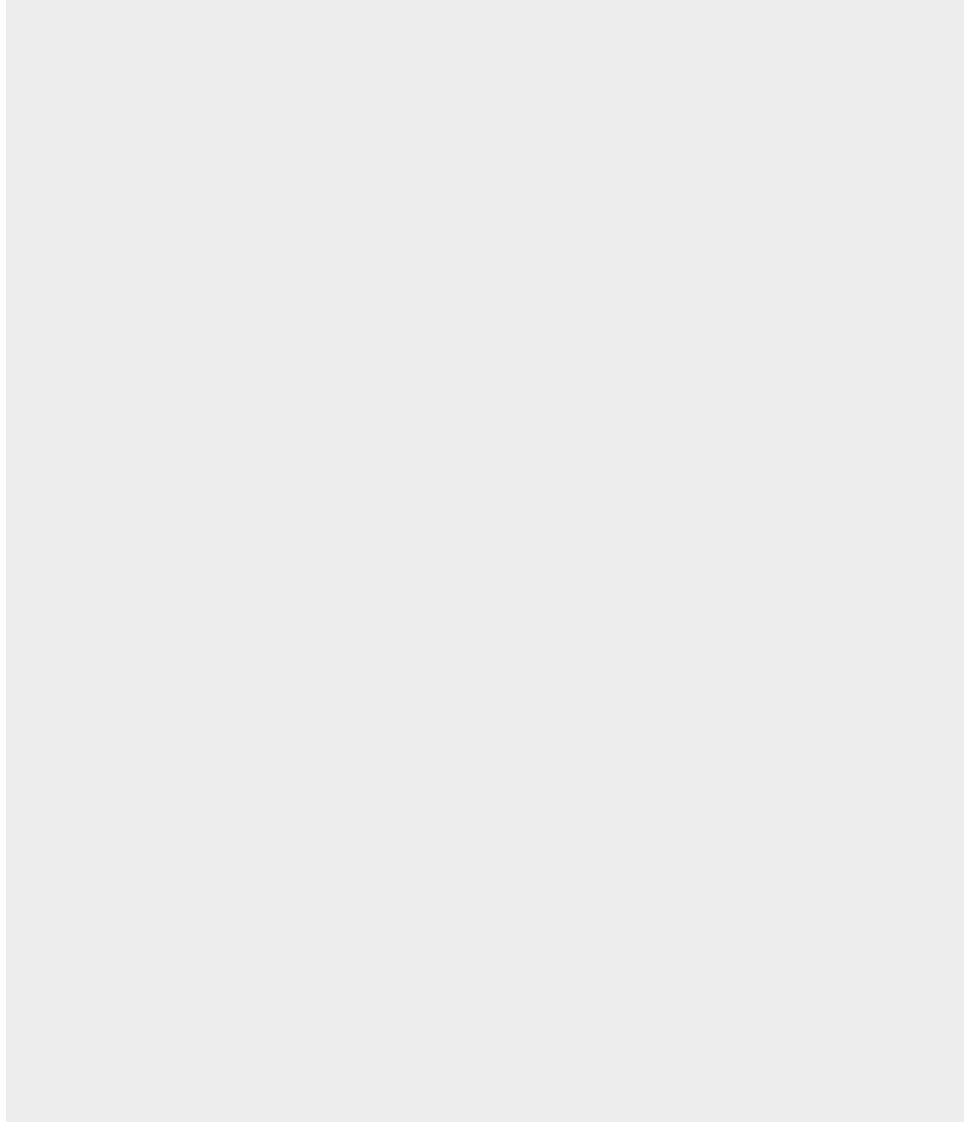
**Special recognition and  
achievements:**

**Other information you'd  
like to include:**

## Final Plans and Wishes

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### **Unique wishes and directives**



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### **Good Samaritans**

List your closest friends in the event your family needs help at the time of death. They can help with the following items: (1) notifying friends and family, (2) handling phone calls on behalf of family, (3) running errands, (4) helping out-of-town guests, and/or (5) helping with caring for the body.

**Name and phone number:**

**Name and phone number:**

**Name and phone number:**

**Name and phone number:**

**Name and phone number:**

For the purpose of relieving my family in the event of need, the preceding arrangements are my personal wishes and desires.

.....  
**Note to your loved ones**

**Signature:**

**Date:**

## Military and Veteran Funeral Honors

### Family responsibility

Obtain copies of Military Discharge and DD214 or DD215 before death and keep in a safe location.

- Must be an honorable discharge
- DD214 is a separation document
- D215 is a duplicate or updated DD214

These documents will have the required information, military identification number, branch of service, name of the conflict if applicable, date of discharge, and rank/rate when discharged.

### Note

If they served in more than one branch you need the documents from the last service dates the veteran served. If the family is working with a funeral home, they must request military honors, and the funeral home will make all the arrangements by contacting the appropriate organization.

Discussion with your veteran on the type of service:

- Funeral home service: Check with veterans service organization
- Church service: Casket flag versus pall
- Gravesite service

### Note

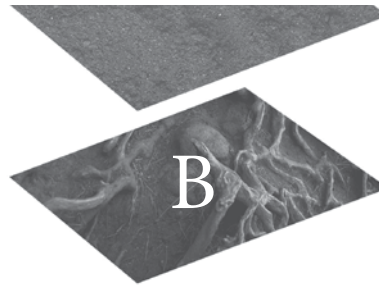
The Department of Defense is obliged by law to play taps, fold the flag, and present the flag to the next of kin. Additional honors including honor guard pallbearers and a rifle volley may be available, contingent on the resources accessible by the honor guard company and wishes of the family.

**Taps:** Taps is a traditional bugle call sounded at military funerals by an official bugler if available. The honor guard presents a final salute to the deceased veteran during the playing of taps.

***Flag folding:*** The US flag (5 foot by 8 foot cotton) is carefully taken from the casket and silently folded by the honor guard company. Once folded, the flag resembles a triangle, representative of the three-cornered hats worn by colonial soldiers during the Revolutionary War.

***Flag presentation:*** After the flag is folded it is presented to an honor guard member in the same military branch as the deceased veteran who subsequently marches the flag to the next of kin and presents the flag to them.

***Rifle volley:*** A rifle volley is a customary tradition in which three volleys of shots are fired in honor of the deceased veteran by members of the honor guard company. Rifle volleys are performed only if the family chooses.

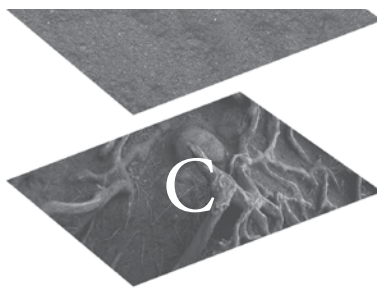


## Cost Comparisons

Services	Natural burial	Conventional burial	Cremation
Basic Services: none declinable. This usually includes consultation, preserving body for 1 week, prep for death certificate, etc.	\$1,000-\$1,500	\$1,500-\$2,500	\$1,000-\$1,500
Basic Preparation: bathing, dressing, and casketing or shrouding	\$0-\$300	\$200-\$400	
Chemical or green embalming	\$0	\$300-\$800	Would not suggest
Preserving the body for extended time	\$75-\$100 per day	\$75-\$100 per day	\$75-\$100 per day
Transportation of the body (50 mile radius)	\$250-\$650	\$250-\$650	\$250-\$650
Funeral ceremony with viewing	Home funeral \$0 or minimal cost at church	\$2,000-\$5,000	Home funeral \$0 or minimal cost at church (consider with body present before cremation)
Hearse		\$300-\$350	
Natural burial casket price range	\$75-\$1,800		

Services	Natural burial	Conventional burial	Cremation
Burial shroud price range	\$0-\$1,350		
Urn price range			\$125-\$1,500
Hardwood casket price range		\$500-\$20,000	
Green burial package: everything above except casket or shroud	\$2,600		
Flame cremation package: cremation and biodegradable urn			\$2,500-\$4,500
Green or flameless cremation: cremation and biodegradable urn			\$2,500-\$3,000
Burial space	\$800-\$5,000	\$1,000-\$9,000	\$800-\$5,000
Opening and closing grave (weekdays)	\$900-\$1,300	\$900-\$1,300	\$800-\$900
Opening and closing grave (weekends)	\$1,000-\$2,500	\$1,000-\$2,500	\$1,200-\$1,500
Grave liner		\$500-\$1,500	
Grave vaults		\$900-\$13,000	
Headstone	\$0-500	\$500-\$5,000	\$0-500
Average cost of funeral	\$1,000-\$4,000	\$8,500-\$10,500	\$6,000-\$7,500

***\*These cost estimates are accurate at the time of the first publication of this book in 2024.***



## Resources for Caring for the Body at Home

This list provides an abundance of resources when choosing to care for a loved one at home during the dying process, and in caring for their body after death has occurred.

**Belk, Donna.** “Passing through Our Hands” on Vimeo. [Vimeo.com/13341157](https://vimeo.com/13341157). An informative documentary-style video showing how families can care for their own loved ones when they die at home.

**Better Place Forests.** “Death Doulas: Guiding People Through Life’s Final Transition,” *Better Place Forests* (July 2021). [www.betterplaceforests.com/blog/articles/death-doulas-guiding-people-through-lifes-final-transition](http://www.betterplaceforests.com/blog/articles/death-doulas-guiding-people-through-lifes-final-transition). A primer on what a death doula is, what they do, and how they can facilitate for the dying and their loved ones the experience of death.

**Duclow, Donald F.** *Encyclopedia of Death and Dying*, s.v. *Ars Moriendi*. Accessed January 30, 2024. [www.deathreference.com/A-Bi/Ars-Moriendi.html](http://www.deathreference.com/A-Bi/Ars-Moriendi.html). Chronicles briefly the history of *Ars Moriendi*.

**Five Wishes Organization.** [FiveWishes.org](http://FiveWishes.org). Provides online and print resources for developing advanced care planning that expresses a person’s desires for end-of-life care.

**Funeral Consumers Alliance.** [Funerals.org](http://Funerals.org). Focused on consumer rights in funerals and burials. They emphasize the virtues of frugality and simplicity when attending to the dead, including options for natural burial.

**Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA).** [www.organdonor.gov](http://www.organdonor.gov). This is the national organ donor website and registry operating under the federal HRSA.

**Heerema, Ester.** “Euphemisms for Dead, Death, and Dying: Are They Helpful or Harmful?” *Verywell Health*. [www.verywellhealth.com/euphemisms-for-dead-death-or-dying-1131903/](http://www.verywellhealth.com/euphemisms-for-dead-death-or-dying-1131903/). Examines the appropriate but mostly inappropriate use of euphemisms regarding death.

**Kinkaraco.** <https://kinkaraco.com>. Designing natural burial shrouds since 2004. Kinkaraco’s shrouds are 100 percent American-made burial and cremation shrouds, and they offer other natural products for home funeral preparations.

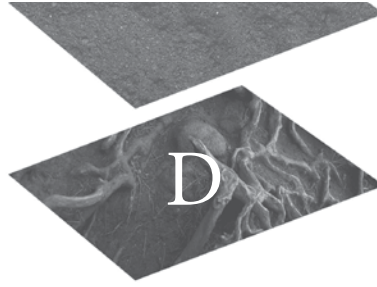
**National Body Donor Program (NBDP).** [www.nationalbody.org](http://www.nationalbody.org). The site of the NBDP informs about body donation for medical science research purposes and how to proceed with donating one’s body at the end of life.

**National End of Life Doula Alliance.** [www.nedalliance.org](http://www.nedalliance.org). For those interested in employing or becoming a death doula, the Alliance’s website conveys the nature of death doula care and the processes involved.

**National Home Funeral Alliance.** <http://homefuneralalliance.org>. The first stop for those considering a home funeral or visitation, it conveys extensive, up-to-date resources and news about home funerals, including training opportunities for caring for the dead in hospice and/or home care.

**National Institute on Aging.** [www.nia.nih.gov](http://www.nia.nih.gov). The National Institute on Aging, part of the federal government’s National Institutes of Health, provides resources to people on end-of-life care.

**Peaceful Passage at Home.** <https://peacefulpassageathome.com/cooling-the-body.html>. This page on the website of Peaceful Passage at Home clearly enunciates the process and means for cooling a body for a home visitation/funeral.



## Resources for Burying Naturally

**T**his list includes a collection of resources for burying naturally. It will include resources and contact information for organizations that can assist with natural burial along with videos. We provide below only a limited list that has guided us along the way.

**Bellefontaine Cemetery.** <http://bellefontainecemetery.org>. Bellefontaine cemetery, a certified natural burial ground by the Green Burial Council, is a historic cemetery located in St. Louis, Missouri, that honors and facilitates natural burials in a natural burial area and throughout the cemetery.

**Boucher, Heidi.** *In The Parlor: The Final Goodbye*. This video critically examines conventional burial and America's relationship with death and challenges the viewer to think differently about death.

**Bury Me at Taylor.** [www.pbs.org/video/bury-me-at-taylor-hollow-9s2tca](http://www.pbs.org/video/bury-me-at-taylor-hollow-9s2tca). A 2022 video release about a mortician who spent fifteen years working in the conventional funeral industry but becomes passionate about paving uncharted territory in Tennessee with the creation of its first natural burial ground.

**Capsula Mundi (Biodegradable burial pod).** [www.capsulamundi.it/en](http://www.capsulamundi.it/en). Site of the Capsula Mundi project in Europe that has developed biodegradable pods for whole body burials and biodegradable urns for cremains.

**Corley, Cheryl.** "Burials and Cemeteries Go Green." NPR.org, December 16, 2007. [www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=17232879](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=17232879). A basic introduction to natural burial through print and an online radio story.

**Crestone End of Life Project (Open funeral pyre).** <https://informedfinalchoices.org/crestone>. The site of the Crestone Project, which enables open pyre outdoor cremations only in Saguache County, Colorado.

**Earth 911.** <https://earth911.com/living-well-being/natural-burial>. This site compares conventional burial practices with natural burial practices, including cremation options, body composting, and various other ways to enhance the biosphere after death.

**EcoEternity Forest.** <https://ecoeternity.camphighroad.org/our-ecoeternity-forest/>. Natural burial ground at the Camp Highroad Christian Adventure Camp in Middleburg, Virginia, where ashes are placed in biodegradable urns near memorial trees.

**Environmental Protection Agency, Burial at Sea.** [www.epa.gov/ocean-dumping/burial-sea](http://www.epa.gov/ocean-dumping/burial-sea). The EPA website provides information, applications for permits, and forms for burial at sea.

**Funeral Consumers Alliance (FCA).** <https://funerals.org/?consumers=green-burial>. The natural burial page on the FCA website explains what natural burial is, provides resources for such things as choosing a natural burial cemetery and a funeral director, and explains costs associated with a natural burial.

**Grave Solutions.** [www.gravesolutions.com](http://www.gravesolutions.com). Website that provides a means for selling the rights to burial plots as well as other information about conventional burials.

**Green Burial Council (GBC).** [www.greenburialcouncil.org](http://www.greenburialcouncil.org). The most prominent voice in promoting and certifying natural burial service providers, with lists of GBC-approved providers (burial vessels, funeral homes, cremation facilities, cemeteries).

**The Green Reaper (Fournier's webpage).** <https://elizabethfourniergreenreaper.wordpress.com>. This website provides Fournier's informative posts about natural burial practices.

**A Greener Funeral.** [www.agreenerfuneral.org](http://www.agreenerfuneral.org). This website explores natural burial, the ecological rationale behind it, and connections to natural burial cemeteries and green funeral providers and products.

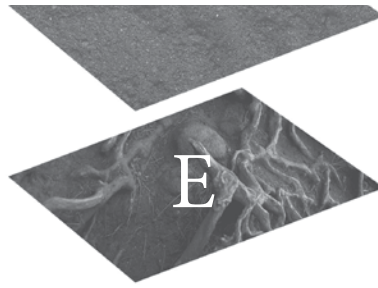
**Living Legacy Forest.** <https://livinglegacyforest.com>. Website of Living Legacy Forest that offers for purchase memorial trees that transform cremains into micronutrients to nourish the growth of the trees.

**National Burial Company.** [www.naturalburialcompany.com](http://www.naturalburialcompany.com). A company that sells biodegradable coffins, caskets, urns, and funeral goods.

**Natural Burial Store.** <https://funerals.naturalburialcompany.com/natural-coffins-caskets>. A company that sells biodegradable coffins, caskets, urns, shrouds, shroud boards, and other funeral goods.

**National Funeral Directors Association.** <https://nfda.org>. The website of the United States professional trade association of funeral directors.

- The Order of the Good Death.** [www.orderofthegooddeath.com/resources/green-burial](http://www.orderofthegooddeath.com/resources/green-burial). The educational website founded by prominent undertaker Caitlin Doughty, which seeks to reframe conversations and approaches to the end of life, death, and burial, including promoting the consideration of natural burial.
- Ramsey Creek.** [www.memorialecosystems.com](http://www.memorialecosystems.com). The website of the first natural burial ground in the United States, Ramsey Creek Preserve in Westminster, South Carolina, established in 1996 by Dr. Billy and Kimberley Campbell.
- Resomation (Alkaline Hydrolysis Cremation).** <https://resomation.com>. Website of one of the primary providers of alkaline hydrolysis, or water cremation, in the United States and United Kingdom.
- Shelves for Life.** [www.williamwarren.co.uk/2009/10/shelves-for-life](http://www.williamwarren.co.uk/2009/10/shelves-for-life). For the book lovers, information about William Warren's design of bookshelves that convert into a coffin.
- Steelmantown Cemetery Natural Burial Ground.** <https://vimeo.com/131680248>. A brief documentary about the development and nature of Steelmantown Cemetery (GBC certified; [www.steelmantowncemetery.com/](http://www.steelmantowncemetery.com/)) in Tuckahoe, New Jersey.
- Todd, Mark.** "Burial beneath the Branches," *The Star Beacon*; Ashtabula, Ohio. *Ashtabula Star Beacon*. July 17, 2012. <http://starbeacon.com/local/x500780432/Burial-beneath-the-branches>. Brief account of the forest burial ground housed at Camp Luther, a Lutheran Summer Camp in North Kingsville, Ohio.
- Trappist Caskets.** <https://trappistcaskets.com>. Website for the Trappist New Melleray Abbey in Peosta, Iowa, who sells handcrafted caskets made from their sustainable forest suitable for natural burial.
- Trusted Caskets.** <https://trustedcaskets.com/blogs/news/casket-prices-how-much-does-a-casket-cost>. Website provides information on caskets and coffins, and reviews for casket and coffin prices, and sells caskets and coffins made of various materials, as well as caskets for cremation and for larger bodies.
- A Will for the Woods.** [www.awillforthewoods.com](http://www.awillforthewoods.com). Moving documentary video of the illness and death of Clark Wang, psychiatrist and avid musician, as he decides to be buried naturally and prepares for his own death and natural burial.



## State Funeral Boards and Licensing Agencies

**Alabama:** Board of Funeral Service, <https://fsb.alabama.gov>.

**Alaska:** No state funeral board.

**Arizona:** Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers, <https://funeralboard.az.gov>.

**Arkansas:** Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors, <https://insurance.arkansas.gov/industry-regulation/pre-paid-funeral/embalmers-funeral-directors-burial-association>.

**California:** Dept. Consumer Affairs Cemetery, [www.cfb.ca.gov](http://www.cfb.ca.gov).

**Colorado:** Office of Funeral Home and Crematory Registration, <https://dpo.colorado.gov/FuneralCrematory>.

**Connecticut:** Board of Examiners of Embalmers and Funeral Directors, <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Public-Health-Hearing-Office/Board-of-Examiners-of-Embalmers-and-Funeral-Directors/Board-of-Examiners-of-Embalmers-and-Funeral-Directors>.

**Delaware:** Board of Funeral Service Practitioners, <https://dpr.delaware.gov/boards/funeralservices>.

**District of Columbia:** Funeral Board, <https://dlcp.dc.gov/page/board-funeral-directors>.

**Florida:** Board of Funeral, Cemetery, and Consumer Services, [www.myfloridacfo.com/division/funeralcemetery/board](http://www.myfloridacfo.com/division/funeralcemetery/board).

**Georgia:** Board of Funeral Services, <https://sos.ga.gov/georgia-state-board-funeral-service>; Board of Cemeterians, <https://sos.ga.gov/georgia-board-cemeterians>.

**Hawaii:** No state funeral board.

**Idaho:** Licensing Board, <https://nfda.org/careers/licensing-requirements>.

**Illinois:** Funeral Board, <https://idfpr.illinois.gov/profs/boards/fundir.html>.

**Indiana:** Funeral and Cemetery Board, [www.in.gov/pla/professions/funeral-and-cemetery-home/funeral-and-cemetery-board](http://www.in.gov/pla/professions/funeral-and-cemetery-home/funeral-and-cemetery-board).

**Iowa:** Board of Mortuary Science Examiners, <https://hhs.iowa.gov/Licensure/Iowa-Board-of-Mortuary-Science>.

**Kansas:** Board of Mortuary Arts, <https://ksbma.ks.gov>.

**Kentucky:** Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors, [www.fdaofky.com/page/5](http://www.fdaofky.com/page/5).

**Louisiana:** Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors, [www.lsbefd.state.la.us/](http://www.lsbefd.state.la.us/); Cemetery Board, [www.lcb.state.la.us](http://www.lcb.state.la.us).

**Maine:** Board of Funeral Service, [www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing/professions/board-funeral-services](http://www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing/professions/board-funeral-services).

**Maryland:** Board of Morticians, <https://health.maryland.gov/bom/Pages/home.aspx>; Office of Cemetery Oversight, [www.dllr.state.md.us/license/cem](http://www.dllr.state.md.us/license/cem).

**Massachusetts:** Board of Registration in Embalming and Funeral Directing, [www.mass.gov/orgs/board-of-registration-in-embalming-and-funeral-directing](http://www.mass.gov/orgs/board-of-registration-in-embalming-and-funeral-directing).

**Michigan:** Board of Examiners in Mortuary Science, [www.michigan.gov/whitmer/appointments/oma/all/1/board-of-examiners-in-mortuary-science](http://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/appointments/oma/all/1/board-of-examiners-in-mortuary-science).

**Minnesota:** State Health Department, Mortuary Section, [www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/providers/mortsci/index.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/providers/mortsci/index.html).

**Mississippi:** Board of Funeral Services, [www.msbfms.gov/secure/index.html](http://www.msbfms.gov/secure/index.html).

**Missouri:** Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors, <https://pr.mo.gov/embalmers.asp>.

**Montana:** Board of Funeral Service, <https://boards.bsd.dli.mt.gov/funeral>.

**Nebraska:** Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors, <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/pages/funeral-directing-and-embalming.aspx>.

**Nevada:** Funeral Board, <https://funeral.nv.gov>.

**New Hampshire:** Board of Registration: Funeral Directors and Embalmers, [www.oplc.nh.gov/board-registration-funeral-directors-and-embalmers](http://www.oplc.nh.gov/board-registration-funeral-directors-and-embalmers).

**New Jersey:** Board of Mortuary Science, [www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/mor](http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/mor); Cemetery Board, [www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/cem](http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/cem).

**New Mexico:** Board of Thanatopractice, <https://snaccooperative.org/ark:/99166/w6zp9ggw>.

**New York:** Funeral Directing Advisory Board, [www.health.ny.gov/professionals/funeral\\_director/advisory\\_board](http://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/funeral_director/advisory_board).

**North Carolina:** Board of Funeral Service, <https://ncbfs.org>; Cemetery Commission, <http://nccemetery.org>.

**North Dakota:** Board of Funeral Service, [www.funeral.nd.gov](http://www.funeral.nd.gov).

**Ohio:** Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors, <https://funeral.ohio.gov>.

**Oklahoma:** Funeral Board, <https://oklahoma.gov/top/agency/285.html>.

**Oregon:** Mortuary and Cemetery Board, [www.oregon.gov/omcb/pages/default.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/omcb/pages/default.aspx).

**Pennsylvania:** Board of Funeral Directors, [www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardsCommissions/FuneralDirectors/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardsCommissions/FuneralDirectors/Pages/default.aspx).

**Rhode Island:** Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers, <https://health.ri.gov/licenses/detail.php?id=224>.

**South Carolina:** Board of Funeral Service, <https://llr.sc.gov/fs>.

**South Dakota:** Board of Funeral Services, <https://doh.sd.gov/boards/funeral>.

**Tennessee:** Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers, [www.tn.gov/commerce/regboards/funeral.html](http://www.tn.gov/commerce/regboards/funeral.html).

**Texas:** Funeral Service Commission, <https://tfsc.texas.gov>.

**Utah:** Board of Funeral Service, [www.dopl.utah.gov/funeral-service](http://www.dopl.utah.gov/funeral-service).

**Vermont:** Board of Funeral Service, [https://governor.vermont.gov/boards\\_and\\_commissions/funeral\\_service](https://governor.vermont.gov/boards_and_commissions/funeral_service).

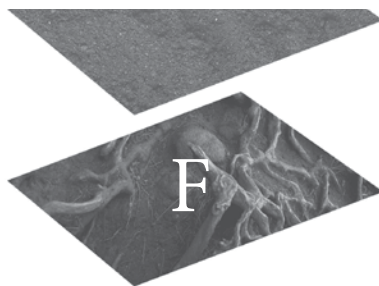
**Virginia:** Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers, [www.dhp.virginia.gov/funeral](http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/funeral).

**Washington:** Funeral and Cemetery Board, [www.dol.wa.gov/professional-licenses/funeral-directors/funeral-and-cemetery-board](http://www.dol.wa.gov/professional-licenses/funeral-directors/funeral-and-cemetery-board).

**West Virginia:** Board of Funeral Service Examiners, [www.wvfuneralboard.com](http://www.wvfuneralboard.com).

**Wisconsin:** Funeral Directors Examining Board, <https://dsps.wi.gov/Pages/BoardsCouncils/FuneralDirectors/Default.aspx>.

**Wyoming:** Board of Funeral Service Practitioners, <https://fspboard.wyo.gov>.



## Further Reading

**Billings, J. Todd.** *The End of the Christian Life: How Embracing Our Mortality Frees Us to Truly Live.* Minneapolis: Brazos Press, 2020. Writing out of the experience of having to confront his own mortality, Billings provides a pilgrimage into death for Christians and an understanding of how to live while dying, following the *Ars Moriendi* tradition.

**Burreson, Kent, and Beth Hoeltke.** *Death, Heaven, Resurrection, and the New Creation.* St. Louis: Concordia, 2019. Aiming to renew a biblical theological perspective that honors the good creation as God intended it, this resource examines death, heaven, resurrection, and eschatology along with the questions that surface around them.

**Fournier, Elizabeth.** *The Green Burial Guidebook: Everything You Need to Plan an Affordable, Environmentally Friendly Burial.* New World Library, 2018. A very helpful companion to our book, this planning resource reveals the options and the process for planning a natural burial in detail.

**Hoffner, Ann.** *The Natural Burial Cemetery Guide.* Green Burial Naturally, 2017 ([www.greenburialnaturally.org](http://www.greenburialnaturally.org)). An indispensable resource for locating natural burial grounds and information on all natural burial cemeteries state-by-state.

**Long, Thomas G.** *Accompany Them with Singing: The Christian Funeral.* Louisville, KY: John Knox Press, 2015. Outstanding theological meditation on Christian funeral practices with strong countercultural emphasis on the significance of the body, argues that the Christian funeral should be conceived as a journey that begins with one's baptism.

**Long, Thomas, and Thomas Lynch.** *The Good Funeral: Death, Grief, and the Community of Care.* Louisville, KY: John Knox Press, 2013. Combining unique perspectives as a theologian and an undertaker, the authors examine the present state of the funeral industry and advocate for theologically and socially responsible ways for attending to death and grief.

**Moll, Rob.** *The Art of Dying: Living Fully into the Life to Come*. Expanded Ed. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2010. Prior to his own sudden death, Moll describes what it means to die a “good” death and how the process of dying should be managed in a personally enriching way that comes to terms with life’s end.

**Slocum, Joshua, and Lisa Carlson.** *Final Rights: Reclaiming the American Way of Death*. Hinesburg, VA: Upper Access, 2011. “The Bible” for understanding what is legal and possible when seeking to care for the dead with less commercial and bureaucratic artifice.

**Stevens, Holly, and Donna Belk.** *Undertaken with Love: A Home Funeral Guide for Families and Community Care Groups*. CreateSpace, 2016. Provides guidance for planning a home funeral and community care group for home funerals.

**Wangerin, Walter, Jr.** *Mourning into Dancing*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992. Classic treatment, especially through stories, from a Christian theological perspective of the encounter with death as a cosmic event and as a personal event and how to journey through that encounter.

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