

# LEGACY

## FUNERAL HOMES

### CREMATION SERVICES

---

#### UNDERSTANDING FUNERAL SERVICE TERMS

A “**Private Viewing**” is intended to give the family some personal quiet time with their deceased loved one. The viewing is traditionally about half an hour just for the immediate family or very close friends. This takes place at the funeral home for 5-7 people.

A “**Public Visitation**” is an event held at the funeral home open to everyone who wishes to pay their respects. It is relatively informal time for people to talk, share stories and generally fellowship together and show support for the surviving family members.

A “**Funeral Service**” is a formal event where the body of the deceased person is present and hosted at the funeral home, church or venue provided by the family. Traditionally a clergy or family member officiates, and the casket can be either open or closed. Prior to the official funeral service time can be designated for a public visitation for those that wish to pay respects and support the family in a more informal manner.

A “**Memorial Service**” is a formal occasion when the body is not present hosted at the funeral home or a church and occasionally a venue selected by the family. Traditionally a clergy or family member officiates. When following cremation, it is acceptable to have the urn present during the memorial service.

A “**Celebration of Life**” is a gathering at the funeral home or a church and occasionally a venue selected by the family, where friends and family take time to memorialize their loved one. These are often held after the physical body has had final disposition take place (ex. Burial or Cremation.) It is a time for family and friends to reflect on a life well lived and share memories of the deceased.

*Most people don't realize the array of decisions that must be made, and it can often feel overwhelming. While final disposition is not an easy conversation working with our licensed staff, we will assist you to honor your loved one.*

Witzleben Chapel, 1707 S. BragawSt., Anchorage, Alaska 99508

[www.legacyalaska.com](http://www.legacyalaska.com)

Office (907) 277-1682 or FAX (907) 278-5133

# LEGACY

## FUNERAL HOMES

### CREMATION SERVICES

---

#### SERVICE SUGGESTIONS

Traditional funeral arrangements can be confusing with a daunting list of choices and decisions to be made. Your Funeral Director is a resource to answer your questions and provide you with the information you need to personalize your experience and honor your loved one. We are sharing a few ways others have reflected on a life well lived and made sure everyone has a chance to say goodbye.

- ❖ Bring a favorite song of the decedent on a CD and it can be played during the visitation or funeral service.
- ❖ Bring in photographs spanning the life of the person you've lost or even create a memory board of treasured life events.
- ❖ If you or your loved one had a favorite scripture incorporate the reading into the order of service.
- ❖ If your loved one did not attend church, consider hosting services in a favorite place that reflects their lifestyle.
- ❖ Have a close friend eulogize the decedent during the service. Often the clergy are not personally acquainted with the person or family.
- ❖ Place cherished items, such as photos of family or pets, a religious item or a favored baseball cap or keepsake in the casket.
- ❖ If your loved one enjoyed a hobby, bring things involved, into the service to display. For example, a quilt may be draped over the casket.
- ❖ Write a letter to the person who died and express all the feelings you ever wanted to say but had not yet shared. Seal it in envelope and place it in the casket so your written thoughts will accompany your loved one to their final resting place.

Bring your creativity, imagination, and ideas to your director so they might be included in the service.

Witzleben Chapel, 1707 S. Bragaw St., Anchorage, Alaska 99508

[www.legacyalaska.com](http://www.legacyalaska.com)

Office (907) 277-1682 or FAX (907) 278-5133

**LEGACY**  
FUNERAL HOMES  
CREMATION SERVICES

---

**ABOUT DEATH CERTIFICATES**

- Death certificates are legal documents issued by the State of Alaska, Bureau of Vital Statistics, with offices in Anchorage and Juneau. Because they are legal instruments it is extremely important that we obtain correct information and ensure the original document is completely accurate.
- The original death certificate must be signed by a physician or medical examiner. This process generally requires 2 to 6 weeks to complete, but if the Medical Examiner office is involved it can take 8 to 10 weeks. Legacy then forwards the signed document to the Bureau of Vital Statistics for processing.
- Certified copies of the death certificate can be ordered through Legacy. After initial issuance the best way to obtain certified copies of the death certificate is to visit the Bureau of Vital Statistics in person.
- In Alaska death certificates are not public records. By law only immediate family members and other interested legal parties such as the estate attorney or executor and funeral homes can obtain death certificates. So if you are going in person to Vital Statistics be sure to bring your identification and authorization to receive certified copies of the death certificate.
- Please be aware that photocopies of the death certificate without the raised seal from the State Registrar are not accepted as legal documents.
- Whether obtained in person or through the mail the death certificate(s) must be paid for prior to being issued. The State of Alaska charges \$30 for the first certified copy and \$25 for each additional copy.

The following is a sampling of businesses that require a certified copy of the death certificate:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Each Life Insurance Policy                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate Transactions      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pension, IRA and other retirement benefits    | <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle Title Transfers       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stocks and Bonds or other investments         | <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card Companies         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bank Accounts in Decedent's Name              | <input type="checkbox"/> Attorney, Will Filing/Probate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Purchases or Loans from Credit Life Insurance | <input type="checkbox"/> Tax Filings                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Union Benefits                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Security Benefits      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oil and Mineral Rights Leases                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogical purposes         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities (Gas, Electric, Telephone, etc.)    | <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent Fund Dividends      |

Estimated number needed: \_\_\_\_\_

# LEGACY

## FUNERAL HOMES

### CREMATION SERVICES

---

#### VETERAN BENEFITS

There is nothing that pays tribute to our deceased Veterans more than military honors for those who proudly served our country. Military Honors can include a rifle salute, flag presentation and playing of Taps following a funeral or memorial service. Legacy can arrange for your family a respectful and fitting tribute to honor your loved one; a U.S. Veteran.

For those Alaskan residents who are eligible, there are two National Cemeteries – one at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER) in Anchorage and Sitka National Cemetery in Sitka Alaska. Legacy can assist in making arrangements for services and interment in these or any other National Cemetery. A detailed application for burial must be completed and your Veteran's DD214 Discharge Orders are required.

**The Veteran's Affairs Administration does not pay for funeral services or merchandise. The Family is responsible for paying the funeral home for services and merchandise. Your funeral director can provide you with resources to apply for a small one-time survivor reimbursement application.**

Benefits from a National Cemetery (at no cost to family) include:

- Burial Plot for the Veteran, their Spouse and any legal Dependents
- Grave marker for the Veteran, their Spouse and legal Dependents
- Use of the common shelter
- Military Honors
- Four (4) free certified death certificates

Those veterans who are not interred in a National Cemetery are eligible for the following benefits.

- Plot Reimbursement (based on the location of death)
- Government Marker Reimbursement for the veteran
- Military Honors
- U.S. Flag
- Presidential Certificate
- Four (4) free certified death certificates

Witzleben Chapel, 1707 S. Bragaw St., Anchorage, Alaska 99508

[www.legacyalaska.com](http://www.legacyalaska.com)

Office (907) 277-1682 or FAX (907) 278-5133