

# Preneed Funeral Contracts

## WHAT CONSUMERS NEED TO KNOW

Preneed funeral contracts allow you to make and pay for your funeral arrangements before you need them. While a preneed contract can offer peace of mind, it's important to do some research before signing on the dotted line.

### WHAT ARE MY CONTRACT OPTIONS?

*First, decide if you want a guaranteed or non-guaranteed contract:*

#### **Guaranteed**

The funeral price is decided at the time of purchase, locking-in today's prices.

#### **Non-Guaranteed**

The final price of the funeral won't be decided until time of death.

*Then ask if the contract will be revocable or irrevocable:*

#### **Revocable**

Means you can cancel the contract at any time.

#### **Irrevocable**

You can only cancel within 30 days of signing the contract.

### A SAVVY CONSUMER'S CHECKLIST

*When choosing a preneed provider:*

- Make sure the provider is licensed with the Department of Consumer Affairs, by going to [www.consumer.sc.gov](http://www.consumer.sc.gov) and clicking "Licensee Lookup" or calling 800-922-1594.
- Ask for an itemized list of the products and services offered.
- Review the contract carefully. Keep a signed copy for your records.
- Get receipts for any payments you make and keep detailed records.

# FAQs

***Can I cancel my contract and use the money for something else?*** It depends on the type of contract. See the flow chart on the front of this card.

***Am I able to transfer my preneed contract?*** Yes. You can transfer the contract to a funeral home licensed to sell preneed at anytime; or you can transfer to any licensed funeral home at time of death.

***What if I don't make my payments like I'm supposed to?*** The provider can cancel the contract and refund most of your money **or** apply the received payments to your funeral bill.

***Is it typical for a funeral home to make a consumer pay in full for preneed?*** It depends on the funeral home. Some allow payment plans, payment through an insurance policy or require payment in full.

***What is the \$20 filing fee for?*** Part of that goes into the loss reimbursement fund and another part goes towards DCA's administrative costs.

***What is the loss reimbursement fund?*** The purpose of this fund is to help pay for consumer's funerals in the event their preneed money is mishandled by the funeral home.

---

***If you feel that a funeral home has violated the law, please file a complaint with the Department.***



**SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**  
2221 Devine St. • STE. 200 • Columbia, SC 29250  
800-922-1594 • [www.consumer.sc.gov](http://www.consumer.sc.gov)