



Preplanning... A thoughtful choice

Arranging for mortuary services prior to need:

- Assures that your wishes are known, provided for and honored.
- Relieves your family of arguing about difficult issues at an emotional time.
- Protects your loved one's economic future by avoiding excessive expense.

San Diego Memorial Society is a nonprofit organization incorporated in 1958 to help members obtain simple and dignified arrangements for burial or cremation. It does this by working with participating mortuaries to provide services to members at inexpensive pre-established prices.

The Society does not sell insurance or "prepaid burial plans." It is not a mortuary or a for-profit business. Its orientation is focused on consumer protection and it is led by a volunteer, unpaid Board of Directors elected by the membership. The Society makes arrangements with participating mortuaries to provide for basic services at low, fully transparent prices.

For a modest one-time lifetime membership fee you can join now. Membership is open to all. You can complete a membership application online at: <http://sdmsonline.com/application>, or complete the application on the back panel of this brochure and mail it to the address on the form.

San Diego Memorial Society, 13446 Poway Road, PMB#207, Poway, CA 92064

Phone: 858-391-1267 Fax: 858-391-1268, Email: volunteer@sdmsonline.com

Affiliated with Funeral Consumers Alliance



The Difference

Traditional funeral services are commonly held at a house of worship or at a mortuary with the body of the deceased present. The casket can be either opened or closed.

Memorial services are held without the body present, and so may be held at any time and in a variety of settings.

San Diego Memorial Society encourages memorial services, after a simple and dignified disposition of the remains by either cremation or burial. The Society believes that focus on celebrating the life of the deceased, rather than on the body present in the room, is an appropriate attitude. This focus is not incompatible with a meaningful religious ceremony. Almost all religions accept this viewpoint and support the mission of the San Diego Memorial Society.

The difference is not just philosophical. It has distinct economic benefits as well. The services selected by Society members are substantially less expensive than those which require embalming, costly caskets and fancy funeral services.

For more information about organizations like the San Diego Memorial Society and the funeral industry in general, visit the Web site of our national organization, Funeral Consumers Alliance (FCA), at: <http://www.funerals.org>.



What Membership Provides

Six plans are provided:

- Direct Cremation, minimal service
- Direct Cremation, full service
- Immediate Burial, simple casket
- Traditional Funeral and Burial, full service
- Tradition. Funeral with Cremation, Chapel
- Cremation with Memorial Service

The prices for the plans are negotiated by San Diego Memorial Society for the benefit of members. These prices are always much lower than those paid by nonmembers. Additional goods and services not included in the negotiated price of a plan are available from participating mortuaries at extra cost.

The mortuary will pick up the body anywhere in San Diego County, obtain the necessary permits, licenses and certificates and provide the other services of the plan you choose. The Memorial Society monitors the performance of participating mortuaries.

For additional details, visit our Web site at: <http://sdmsonline.com/publications.html> and open the "Plan Options" document there.

Benefits when traveling

The San Diego Memorial Society is one of over 100 similar organizations in the United States and Canada that are affiliated with the Funeral Consumers Alliance (FCA). Through reciprocity with these many affiliates, members can usually receive assistance if death occurs while traveling. You can contact the FCA at 802-865-8300.



To Join...

Complete the Lifetime Membership Application on the reverse side of this panel and mail it to the San Diego Memorial Society along with the one-time membership fee. You may also apply immediately via the Internet by going to:

<http://www.sdmsonline.com/application>

Each adult should apply for membership. Minor children are included in their parent's membership at no extra cost until they reach age 18.

After receiving your application and membership fee, we will send you a Final Planning Booklet and a wallet-size membership card. The booklet should be completed as soon as possible. In it you will select a plan and record other desired arrangements. The booklet will assist you when pre-arranging services with a participating mortuary and will assist your family when they review your wishes at time of need. The membership card should be carried at all times. The information on the card will help survivors or the authorities carry out your wishes should you die in an accident.

Additional helpful information is included in the new member packet. Instructions answer many questions and we include material provided by UCSD Body Donation Program and Donate Life California Organ and Tissue Registry.



Simple, Dignified Cremation and Burial Plans



*A nonprofit, nonsectarian association
established in 1958.*

have therapeutic value and restoration challenges may make embalming the right choice.

Q. How can I be sure my wishes will be followed?

A. When you join the Society you will be sent a Final Planning Booklet. This booklet contains a short but comprehensive set of questions about your final wishes. Your answers will assist you when making arrangements with a participating mortuary. The Society independently monitors the services provided to members by the mortuary and will assist if you encounter a problem.

Q. There are a number of societies in San Diego County; how is yours different?

A. San Diego Memorial Society is the only non-profit funeral society led by volunteers in San Diego County. Other organizations may use the word “society” as a part of their name; these firms are, however, incorporated as for-profit businesses. The cost for cremation or burial available through San Diego Memorial Society is usually significantly less than prices offered by these profit-making “societies.” Since its founding in 1958, we have enrolled over 40,000 members; 25,000 families have already been served. A little investigation will verify the advantage of becoming a San Diego Memorial Society member.

Our Mission:

- Promote dignity, simplicity and economy in planning cremation and burial services.
- Encourage the public to make final arrangements in advance without pressure and when capable of making intelligent, informed well-considered decisions.
- Provide convenient, comprehensive forms, information, pre-arranged prices and other benefits related to end-of-life needs for members and the general public.
- Advocate for consumer-oriented rules and regulations of the after-death industry at the local, county, state and federal government levels and take action when injustice occurs.

Q. How can San Diego Memorial Society offer such cost-effective arrangements?

A. When immediate burial or cremation is used, the considerable expenses of embalming, caskets and fancy funerals are avoided. Usually there is no public viewing of remains. A memorial service without the body present is encouraged for its therapeutic value to family and friends. Memorial services can be held at a time and place convenient to survivors.

Q. Why does the Society charge a fee for membership?

A. We are the only nonprofit consumer advocacy organization in San Diego that offers access to simple, dignified arrangements for cremation and burial. The membership fee and voluntary donations are the only source of income for the Society. Your contributions pay for outreach, printing, postage, and office expenses. After paying the non-refundable membership fee, no further dues or assessments are levied on members.

Q. What are “participating mortuaries?”

A. San Diego Memorial Society volunteers survey all of the mortuaries in San Diego County. A few of these mortuaries meet our criteria and are willing to provide services to our members at negotiated prices. Each participating mortuary is unique and they are located throughout San Diego County, so members are able to match their needs to the mortuary that best meets those needs.

Q. Is embalming required by law?

A. Embalming is not necessary when the body is to be cremated or buried promptly and refrigeration is available. In rare circumstances embalming can be required. When possible, members are encouraged to forgo this expense, but there are times when viewing the body can

Lifetime Membership Application (to submit via the Internet: sdmsonline.com)

Send to:
San Diego Memorial Society
13446 Poway Road, PMB#207
Poway, CA 92064

Date: _____

Please enroll *me/us* in the San Diego Memorial Society.
 \$40 for each lifetime membership (\$80 for two members)
 \$20 transfer fee for each member (\$40 for two members)
 Transferred from _____
 Total: \$ _____ (name of former FCA affiliate)

Member #1 _____ Date of Birth _____ Last 4 digits SSN _____

Member #2 _____ Date of Birth _____ Last 4 digits SSN _____

Residence Address _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone _____ Please list the names and birthdates of dependent children (to age 18) on a separate sheet.

Email: _____

How did you hear about us? _____