



# Funeral Consumers Alliance of Rhode Island

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## SPRING 2024

### DYING IS EXPENSIVE

excerpts from a 1-23-24 article by Jessica Hall, Dow Jones Market Watch

**Dying is expensive. People end up going into debt while also trying to grieve. Whether you opt for a formal burial or direct cremation, there are unavoidable costs involved in dying.**

**The median cost of a burial in 2023 was \$9,995 a 6.1% increase since 2021 according to the National Funeral Director's Assoc. That includes the costs of everything prior to burial, including casket but does not include the cost of a plot in the cemetery or monument or grave marker.**

**The median cost of cremation, with a container and urn was \$6,280 in 2023, up 8.1% from 2021. That does not include the cemetery and marker. Over the same period, the U.S inflation rate was 13.6%.**

**If you add in the cost of a cemetery plot, plus the interment costs of opening and closing the grave, burial permits, grave liner and grounds keeping fees, the bill for dying starts to add up. Obituaries and flowers are extra.**

**Settling estate matters bring other expenses that loved ones face after a death. Lawyer's fees and court filing fees, cost an average of \$2,788. Having a real estate agent and preparing a home for sale adds an additional thousands of dollars.**

**Environmentally friendly or alternative options for funerals are becoming more popular but still remain a small niche of the industry. The green-funeral market globally is only 5.72 million, according to Emergen Research. That's a small figure compared to the U.S. funeral industry alone, which takes in about \$20 billion per year,**

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### FINAL RESTING PLACE

**Thousands of people are now finding their loved ones' final resting places on the internet. Titan Caskets' online sales are disrupting the funeral industry. In the United States, two manufacturers control 85% of casket production with the average casket costing more than \$2,000, sold exclusively to funeral homes. Titan is now selling its products more cheaply direct to consumers.**

**This newsletter has been sent to all email addresses we currently have on file.**