

FUNERAL PLANNING GUIDE



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Florida Burial Options

Over the past century, Florida has been one of the most popular states for people to relocate to in the country. But some of the burial options in Florida are different than what they were familiar with in the state they came from. Between different state laws and a more humid climate, there are certain things people should consider.

Planning a Funeral in Florida

There are several questions you should answer before contacting a funeral home, like [The Gardens in Boca Raton](#) funeral home. Is a burial or a cremation what you're looking for? Would you like the funeral service to be something traditional or something more creative and contemporary? Is South Florida where you'd like the burial and service to be held, or do you need a liaison for a funeral somewhere else?

Cremation Laws in Florida

Different states have different cremation laws, but in Florida, a cremation is only possible after the coroner has issued a cremation permit, and a "Cremation Authorization Form" signed by the next of kin.

One thing to remember is that there's a 48-hour waiting period after death before cremation can occur. Also, the paperwork and other arrangements already takes about three days. While a casket is not required for cremation, some do prefer to use that over the standard container.

Funerals for Veterans in Florida

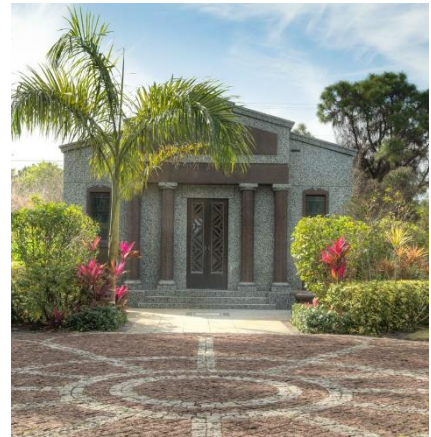
All veterans of the United States military service are entitled to a U.S. flag, a free cemetery plot and a grave marker. However, a copy of the veteran's DD214 discharge papers will be required in order to acquire those veteran benefits.

Check with VA cemeteries near you to see if there are burial plots available, or if they only have space for cremated remains.

Embalming in Florida

While the state of Florida doesn't require embalming, a body must be refrigerated within 24 hours of death, or it must be embalmed.

While many funeral homes will encourage embalming, and it's usually required if a viewing or a public service is to be held.



Natural Burial or Green Burial

A natural burial, where the deceased is handled organically, without embalming, the body must be buried in a biodegradable container in a designated burial site.

For more information about funerals and Florida burial options, please contact The Gardens of Boca Raton – Cemetery and Chapel -- to find out the best way to show respect to your loved one.

Religion & Traditions

For every religion in the world, there are nearly as many traditions involving funerals and burials, and The Gardens of Boca Raton tries to meet your expectations with all of them. Please tell us if there are specific traditions you and your family prefer.

Some of these traditions involve the funeral service itself, the burial or cremation, and several other aspects. Most religions in this country are fine with having a funeral within two or five days after the death, along with the option of having a viewing or wake for the body. Cremation, embalming and organ donation are also usually acceptable to most faiths in this country, as well. But this isn't always the case, of course, so we work hard to accommodate your wishes.

Below are some of the more specific traditions we follow for those in that religion that request it:

Catholics: Vigils are often held on a day preceding the funeral, where priests can preside over prayers. This is also when eulogies would be performed by the family and friends of the deceased, as opposed to at the funeral. Priests will lead the Funeral Mass at a Catholic church or chapel, but musicians and readers might also participate in the service.

The Rite of Committal is the interment service held at the gravesite or tomb, where a priest prays over the body one last time, with family and friends present. The service is meant to bless the body or remains, and "commit" it back to the earth.

Jewish: The Gardens of Boca Raton has two main buildings. One is for those of the Jewish faith and the other is for all other denominations.

There are many different traditions for a Jewish funeral, depending on the specific denomination, and most of those traditions are based on the laws of the Old Testament. The Dayan HaEmet prayer is recited by those who mourn.



The body must be interred as soon as it is practical, and the body shouldn't be left unattended until burial, which is usually performed by a "shomer," which could be a family member, friend, or a member of the congregation. However, organ donation and donating the body to medical research is generally acceptable. The rules around cremation do differ depending on the degree of orthodoxy of the deceased. Men should be buried wearing a yarmulke, a religious head covering, and a tallit, which is a prayer shawl.

Some traditions might be different between Orthodox and Reformed Jewish funerals, and The Garden at Boca Raton handles both according to the needs of the family and faith.

For the week-long mourning period, a torn ribbon is usually worn on the left side of the chest of those mourning the death of a parent, but on the right side of the chest for those mourning all other family members.

That seven-day mourning period (called "shiva") is the first period of mourning in Judaism, and a 30-day mourning period (called "sloshim") starts from the day of the funeral. During shiva, the family gathers every day to mourn and pray, but during sloshim, mourners will return to daily life, while also reciting the Mourner's Kaddish (blessing) each day.

Muslims: There are two sects of the Islamic religion, and both have differing views on burials and funerals.

Burials should be performed as quickly as possible, as the local Islamic community makes funeral arrangements, so there is no viewing. While organ donation is usually acceptable, autopsies are often unacceptable, seen as a desecration of the human body. Also, unless governmental laws dictate it, embalming and cosmetology of the body is not allowed, which further necessitates an urgent burial. Cremation is also prohibited by the Islamic religion.

Three large white sheets are used to shroud the body after it has been washed three times in a specific order. The deceased should have his left hand on his chest, and his right hand resting on top of the left, like during prayer. Ropes would then secure the sheets around the body, and then taken to the mosque for prayers.

According to tradition, only men should be present at the burial, although some Muslim communities allow for all mourners at the gravesite. Once buried, a layer of wood or stones are placed on top of the body to prevent direct contact between the body and the soil that fills the grave. Each mourner present will then throw three handfuls of soil into the grave.

Muslim graves have a small marker, like a stone, but tradition prohibits having any decorations around the burial site or a large monument.

While the mourning period usually lasts for 40 days, widows will grieve for a longer period of four months and 10 days, and they are prohibited from being in contact with single men, known as "na-mahram."

There are also many traditions outside of religion that we try to adhere to, including military rites, or civil and fraternal tributes.



Burial, Cremation and Entombment

Choosing between burial, cremation and entombment is a decision many people should make well before other people make that decision for them. A large percentage of people are choosing cremation over burial every year and that number is growing annually.

There might be religious reasons for a person to choose being buried over getting cremated, but many religions have softened their stance against it.

Entombment, however, is ideal for many families, allowing for the interment of the deceased in a mausoleum. This can be for either a casket or a cremation urn. The casket or urn will then be placed inside a crypt or a niche, which is an individual compartment inside the mausoleum. Finally, the crypt or niche is sealed.

Mausoleums are small buildings that house the remains above ground. This is a desirable method of burial because the space always remains clean and dry, making it ideal for visitation by family and friends.

The choices range from single crypts and tandem crypts for two people lengthwise in one crypt. Another option includes a companion crypt, with two entombments laid side by side.

Considering Cremation vs. Burial

For those without religious prohibitions, cremation has many compelling qualities that should be considered.

The cost of cremation over burial is the main reason many choose the former over the latter. For the most part, cremation costs about one-third the price of what a traditional burial would cost.

With that said, there are still some benefits for burial, too. Some people still aren't comfortable with the idea of cremation, and the loss of life is traumatic enough that considering something other than a traditional burial is too difficult.

Tradition is also a reason many choose a burial over cremation, but many people even choose a compromise between the two. The body can be cremated, with the cremains placed in an urn and then entombed in an above-ground mausoleum, like The Gardens of Boca Raton.



Celebration of Life

Who, Where and When?

The first questions you need to answer before moving on – who should you invite, where should the celebration be held, and on which day and time? You want to invite this person's out-of-town family and friends, too, and possibly their co-workers.

You'll also want to designate one person or a small group of people to conduct the event, and hiring a non-denominational person to manage it is a good idea if this isn't going to have much religious involvement. If it will, then consider a church minister as a possibility.

Family and friends might want to speak at your event, also, and all of this should be run through the celebration overseer, so that it's an orderly event.

Celebrating Life with Love and Respect

Think about doing a group event that might have some meaning behind this gift of life that will help celebrate the loss of your loved one all at once.

Do something that doesn't necessarily cost a lot of money, but might also be a keepsake people can use to remember that person in the future. Here are a handful of ideas for your Celebration of Life to help commemorate your loved one:

- Fly some colorful kites to make a beautiful, picturesque sky
- Hand out stepping stones to those that would like to participate, and make a stone pathway through your yard to a garden or a tree.
- Participate in a 5K for a charitable organization together, where you can all walk or run together. Maybe everyone can wear the same colored shirt.
- Go golfing or fishing as a large group if that was indicative of your loved one's hobbies.
- Have everyone bring a potted flower or plant and create a small garden in someone's backyard.



Finally, remember that this is all about your loved one's life and the celebration of everyone's connection with them. Consider using a memory table and fill it with photographs and thoughtful memorabilia that might help spark some wonderful stories and anecdotes by family and friends.

Hospice Care

"Hospice" is a closely related word to "hospital" and "hospitality," all three of which are terms that refer to providing care and comfort. There are over 1,400 hospice programs through the United States. Their main goal is to provide comfort and care to those that are close to finishing the journey of life.

Hospice caregivers make sure that both the patient and the patient's family live the highest quality of life possible during these trying times.

Hospice and Funerals



Often, we think of hospice as the program directly relates to the patient. But hospice care also can involve care of the family after the time of death, including their time of mourning.

One feature hospice workers help families with is in helping the family plan funeral services. The Gardens of Boca Raton have a natural relationship with hospice workers and we all help the families make plans for their

loved one.

Hospice programs have working relationships with funeral directors, so pre-planned funerals are often discussed. Taking the time to work all of this out ahead of time relieves a huge amount of stress from the grieving family after the patient passes away. That means that families can spend more time together celebrating the life lost of their loved one.

Considering how much work some family members might be undertaking while caring for their loved one in their final days, it's important to take this huge weight off their shoulders at the funeral. Hospice workers and funeral directors deal with these situations weekly, and they both usually know what to do and when, more than the bereaved.

Will & Estate Planning

When pre-planning a funeral, wills and estate planning should definitely be involved as well. Not only do you want the details of your final resting place to be ironed out well ahead of time, you should also want your money and property to go to the people you want. It's important to note, though, that wills might not be read for weeks after someone's death, so make your wishes known outside of the will, as well.

In many states, a cremation can only be requested by a healthcare power of attorney, a living will, a final letter of instruction – or in a witnessed will. So if cremation is what you prefer, which is usually the option that costs less money, then that should be specified ahead of time in your will.

Some other details that should be included in your will and estate planning are how your funeral should be paid for, and how you would like your funeral to happen, including your burial. One way to avoid paying estate taxes is that you can get a life insurance policy that gets paid to an irrevocable trust.

Military Funerals

Every eligible veteran of the U.S. military may receive military funeral honors during a ceremony at their funeral. In order for a veteran to be eligible, they should be either military members on active duty or in the Selected Reserve, or they should be former military members that left their service under conditions other than dishonorable. They would also have to have completed at least one term of enlistment.

Military funeral honors are free of charge, with an honor guard of two or more members of the Armed Forces, including one from the arm that the deceased served in.

The ceremony will include the playing of Taps, possibly by a bugler, during the folding and presenting of the American flag to the deceased's next of kin.

Verifying eligibility would include either the DD Form 214, or a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty. Families that would like to request funeral honors would want to do so through their funeral director, who would then contact the appropriate military service, and arrange all the details.



Living Wills

Everyone has the right to make decisions about their lives in the state of Florida, including the right to refuse medical treatments or procedures that would prolong their life if they have a terminal condition. To ensure that this right is not lost or diminished by being incapacitated mentally or physically, Florida Statutes Chapter 765 allows a person to designate another person to act on their behalf, if they are incapacitated.



By making a written declaration, known as a “Living Will,” competent adults are able to direct what life-prolonging procedures or treatments they want or don’t want if they have a terminal condition.

Of course, a living will is not to be confused with a legal will, as the latter is only meant for personal property, or appointing a representative to oversee your property.

How Do I Make a Living Will?

Fill out the form (found at the end of this guide), according to Florida Statutes Section 765.303, you can make all of the pertinent declarations needed to share your desires of what to do if you are incapacitated, with a terminal condition. This will help direct family members, physicians, law enforcement and all legal entities, toward what your wishes were when you were in sound mind and body.

In order to make that form officially legal, however, it must be signed by the person it represents, as well as two witnesses, one of which must not be the spouse or a living blood relative of the maker of the will. The state of Florida will recognize a Living Will that is created in another state, as long as it was signed within compliance of the Living Will laws of that state.

Once that Living Will has been signed by the maker, and two witnesses, then the maker must notify their physician that it does exist. It would be smart to notify your local hospital and have it placed in your medical records.

Life / Funeral Insurance

One of the most common questions asked by grieving family members after the death of a loved one is “Will life insurance help pay for a funeral?” The short answer is “yes,” but there are definitely some things you have to know, first. A life insurance policy should certainly be able to pay for the funeral, but the policy must explicitly say that the beneficiary should get the insurance payout upon death. If not, then one might have to pay out of pocket for the funeral until they get that check, which could take weeks.

About Us

Let our Family care for your Family

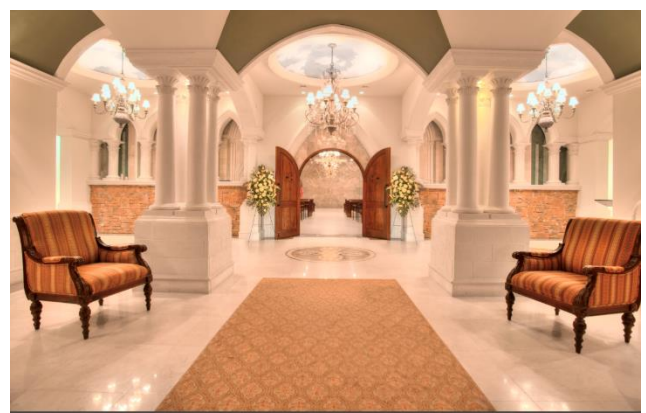
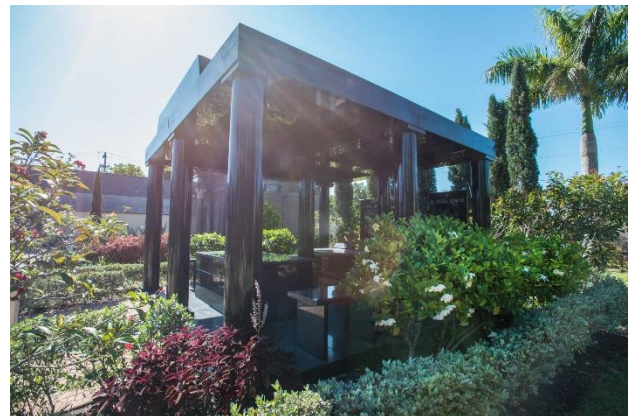


The property is owned and operated by brothers Garrett & Marshall Jacobs. Garrett is also the owner of Boca Raton Funeral Home and Cremation Services and has lived and worked in the area for over 20 years. With this in mind, it allows The Gardens to offer a full range services that other funeral homes or individual cemeteries can't.

There are two main Mausoleums on the property -- one catering to people of Jewish faith, or married to members of the Jewish faith, and the other Mausoleum

catering to people of all religions. The Mausoleums are air conditioned, allowing you to spend time with your loved one in complete comfort. The property also has an indoor chapel to hold services and memorials.

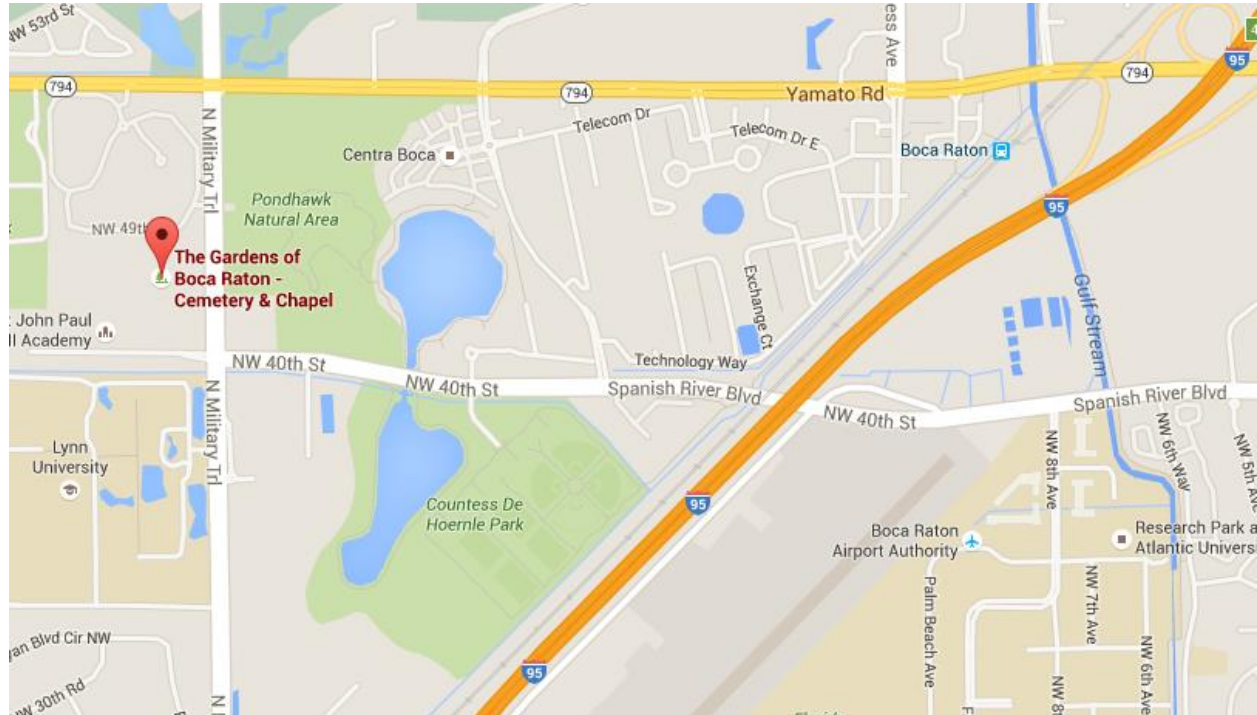
The Mausoleums are complimented by the beautifully landscaped grounds which provide a perfect final resting place if you choose one our private or family crypts



The Gardens of Boca Raton – Cemetery & Chapel (561) 989 9190

Contact Us

The Gardens of Boca Raton – Cemetery & Chapel is located in the heart of Boca Raton, just minutes from I-95.



Directions

From I95: Take the Yamato Rd West exit to Military Trail. Turn left (south) and The Gardens will be on your right.

From Florida Turnpike: Exit at Glades Rd and head East to Jog Rd. Turn left (North) on Jog Rd and follow to Yamato Rd. Turn right (East) and follow for 1.5 miles to Military Trail. Turn right onto Military Trail and The Gardens will be on your right.

Contact us at:

The Gardens of Boca Raton – Cemetery & Chapel
4103 N Military Trl, Boca Raton, FL 33431
(561) 989-9190

support@thegardens.com



The Gardens of Boca Raton – Cemetery & Chapel (561) 989 9190

Checklist

For the family, it is a stressful time after the passing of a loved one. Even though your natural reaction is to stay busy, even the simplest of funerals requires an enormous amount of planning.

The following is a checklist of items that will need to be executed after your passing.

(x) denotes items that can be selected beforehand

- Notify Doctor/Coroner
- Notify Funeral Director
- Notify Cemetery and Memorial Park
- Notify Minister and/or Church
- Notify Relatives
- Notify Friends & Former Employees
- Send out notice of time and date of service
- (x) Find Organist/Singer or select music to be played
- (x) Gather photos/video of loved one to display at service
- (x) Select type of service: funeral, cremation ...
- (x) Select speakers, select passages to be read ...
- (x) Select Pallbearers (if funeral)
- Notify Life Insurance Company
- Notify any relevant Unions, Organizations or Military
- Notify Attorney, Accountant or Executor of Will
- Obtain Death Certificate From Funeral Home
- (x) Select casket
- (x) Select and provide clothing and/or jewelry to be worn by deceased
- Organize flowers
- Plan a get-together/wake for after the ceremony
- Write an obituary

Service Information

Preferred Funeral Home _____

Address _____ **Phone** (____) ____ - ____

Type of Service

- ☐ Funeral
- ☐ Cremation
- ☐ Memorial
- ☐ Other _____

Place of Service

- ☐ Funeral Home
- ☐ Chapel
- ☐ Church
- ☐ Cemetery Chapel
- ☐ Cemetery Graveside
- ☐ Other _____

Location address (Funeral) _____

- ☐ Selected and Prepaid - Date Completed (___/___/___)
- ☐ Selected and Not Paid in Full

Service Preference

- ☐ Religious
- ☐ Non-Religious
- ☐ Celebrant/Clergy/Speaker _____

Selected Readings (religious passages, poetry, quotes) _____

Music/Musicians _____

Type of Casket _____

Participating Organizations (Military, Fraternal, etc) _____

Names of Pallbearers _____



Flag

- ☐ No Flag
- ☐ Draped
- ☐ Folded
- ☐ Presented to _____

Visitation

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Public
- ☐ Private

Casket

- ☐ Open
- ☐ Closed
- ☐ N/A

Clothing Preference

Clothing Description _____

Jewelry Description _____

Return to _____

Eyeglasses _____

Other _____

Memorial Donations (in lieu of flowers?) _____

Reception/Wake

Location _____

Other wishes you request to be carried out before, during or after the service



Memorial Information

Preferred Memorial Park / Cemetery _____

Address _____ Phone (____) ____ - ____

Type of Arrangements

- ☐ Family Estate
- ☐ Companion
- ☐ Single
- ☐ Other _____

Type of Internment Rights

- ☐ Mausoleum
- ☐ Niche
- ☐ Lawn Crypt
- ☐ Ground Burial
- ☐ Other _____
 - ☐ Selected and Prepaid - Date Completed (___/___/___)
 - ☐ Selected and Not Paid in Full

Name of Person Internment Rights Are Deeded To _____

Legal Description of Internment Rights _____

Location of Deed _____

Outer Burial Container

- ☐ Concrete Vault
- ☐ Metal Vault
- ☐ Grave Liner
- ☐ Other _____

Memorialization

- ☐ Monument
- ☐ Bronze Plaque on Granite Base
- ☐ Bronze Plaque
- ☐ Granite Plaque
- ☐ Other _____



- ☐ Selected and Prepaid - Date Completed (___/___/___)
☐ Selected and Not Paid in Full

Inscription _____

Emblem / Symbols _____

Type of Cemetery Service _____

Selected Readings (religious passages, poetry, quotes) _____

Service Leader _____

Additional Remarks and Instructions

Release of: Doves _____ Butterflies _____ Lanterns _____ Other _____

Special Comments / Speakers _____

Family present during closing upon completion of Committal Service? Yes ____ No ____

Other Comments _____

Military Honors

Honor Guard Yes ____ No ____

Taps Played Yes ____ No ____

Flag Presented to _____



Living Will

Declaration made this ____ day of _____, 20____, I _____
willfully and voluntarily make known my desire that my dying not be artificially prolonged under
the circumstances set forth below, and I do hereby declare that, if at any time I am incapacitated
and

_____ I have a terminal condition.
or _____ I have an end-stage condition.
or _____ I am in a persistent vegetative state,

and if my attending or treating physician and another consulting physician have determined that
there is no reasonable medical probability of my recovery from such condition, I direct that life-
prolonging procedures be withheld or withdrawn when the application of such procedures would
serve only to prolong artificially the process of dying, and that I be permitted to die naturally with
only the administration of medication or the performance of any medical procedure deemed
necessary to provide me with comfort care or to alleviate pain.

It is my intention that this declaration be honored by my family and physician as the final
expression of my legal right to refuse medical or surgical treatment and to accept the
consequences for such refusal.

In the event that I have been determined to be unable to provide express and informed consent
regarding the withholding, withdrawal, or continuation of life-prolonging procedures, I wish to
designate, as my surrogate to carry out the provisions of this declaration:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____
Zip _____ Phone _____

I understand the full import of this declaration, and I am emotionally and mentally competent to
make this declaration.

Additional Instructions (optional):

(Signed): _____

Witness _____

Witness _____

Street Address _____

Street Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

City, State & Zip _____

Phone _____

Phone _____

The principal's failure to designate a surrogate shall not invalidate the living will.
— This form offered as a courtesy of The Florida Bar and the Florida Medical Association —



The Gardens of Boca Raton – Cemetery & Chapel (561) 989 9190