

Peace of mind with a
pre-paid funeral plan
through us

Reduce the
worry for
loved ones



Ecclesiastical
PLANNING SERVICES



Taking out a funeral plan is one of the most thoughtful and caring things you can do. It provides real financial benefits too.

Planning ahead

Planning for later life is never an easy thing to do, but it can be comforting and reassuring to know that you've taken care of your arrangements, including your funeral. By taking some time now, you can provide both financial and practical help for your loved ones in the future.

If you've ever had to arrange a funeral for someone, you'll know just how much there is to decide and how difficult it can be. Many people never get around to talking to their families about the kind of funeral they would like. This can lead to all sorts of worry and anxiety for loved ones when the time comes.

A pre-arranged funeral plan is a simple and straightforward way of removing this worry and can provide real peace of mind for you and your family.

We deal with funeral plans on behalf of customers on a daily basis and see the difference they can make. What's more, making funeral arrangements needn't be as distressing as you might think.

Make provision for funeral costs

Funeral costs have risen over the years and further increases are likely so it makes sense to make financial provision.

The funeral plans we offer cover your selected funeral director's costs. As long as the original firm carries out the funeral and your requirements don't change, your family won't be asked to pay a penny more for your funeral director's costs, regardless of how long you live or what happens to costs in the meantime.

You can also include an allowance towards third party costs such as the fees for cremation or burial, medical fees and payment to a minister or officiant. Please refer to the questions and answers on page 5 onwards and the Terms and Conditions for more information.

What happens to my money?

The plans we offer give you exceptional financial security for your money.

Unlike some plans, every penny of the full value of the plan (excluding the initial management fee) is held securely in a whole of life assurance policy and ring-fenced for your funeral when the time comes. The money is made immediately available at the time of need and the funds cannot be used for anything other than your funeral for total peace of mind.

The funeral plan funds are held in guaranteed whole of life assurance policies with a life assurance company that is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) and regulated by the PRA and the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

Funeral plans themselves are not regulated by the PRA or FCA but our plan provider is registered with the Funeral Planning Authority.

Find out more about what to consider when buying a funeral plan in our guide on page 5.

Peace of mind for you and your family

Whether you want a funeral that celebrates your life or something more traditional, a funeral plan lets you:

- Pre-arrange all the details of your funeral and remove the worry for loved ones
- Fix your funeral director's costs and make a contribution towards third party costs
- Make your wishes known in advance
- Choose from a range of funeral services with flexible payment options or personalise your plan to your specific requirements and budget

It can be comforting and reassuring to know you've taken care of your funeral arrangements in advance.



A choice of services to suit you

Everyone has their own ideas about the funeral they would like. After all, it's a very personal decision. You may choose something simple and straightforward, or you might prefer a funeral with additional services and special touches.

The table below shows some of the typical services that are available.

Please select the services you'd like	<input type="checkbox"/>
The services of your funeral director	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provision of the necessary funeral arrangements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Professional advice on certification and registration of death	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conveyance of the deceased to the funeral director's premises	<input type="checkbox"/>
Care of the deceased until the funeral takes place	<input type="checkbox"/>
A simple coffin	<input type="checkbox"/>
A veneered coffin	<input type="checkbox"/>
A superior veneered coffin	<input type="checkbox"/>
A wicker coffin	<input type="checkbox"/>
A hearse on the day of the funeral	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provision of one or more limousines for family and friends	<input type="checkbox"/>
An option to view the deceased	<input type="checkbox"/>
Floral tributes and/or charitable donations	<input type="checkbox"/>

Also, think about whether you'd like to personalise your funeral and, if so, how.

Questions and answers

There's an abundance of funeral plans and providers in the UK and it can be difficult to know which product is best for your needs and budget. There are a few things to ask before buying a funeral plan:

Q. What happens to my money?

Our funeral pre-payment plans are provided by Ecclesiastical Planning Services which is part of the Ecclesiastical Group. Ecclesiastical has been protecting people, property and funds since 1887 and Ecclesiastical Planning Services is a registered provider of the Funeral Planning Authority and adheres to its Code of Practice and high professional standards.

The funeral plans we offer give you exceptional financial security for your money. Every penny of the full value of your plan (excluding the initial management fee) is held securely and ring-fenced for your funeral for your peace of mind.

A funeral plan ensures your wishes will be clearly documented, giving both you and your family peace of mind.

Q. Who is eligible?

Anyone aged 18 or over can take out a plan. There's no upper age limit and no medical or health questions to answer.

Q. Can the plan include special wishes?

You can add special wishes and requests such as song choices, readings, information for a eulogy and so on. There is no charge to add these details. There may be more to pay if you require additional features, services or upgrades.

Q. What happens if I move to a different part of the country?

If you move, you should be able to transfer your plan to a funeral director near your new home. However, there may be additional costs depending on local prices. Please refer to the Terms and Conditions for details or speak to a member of the team for more information.



Anyone aged 18 or over can take out a funeral plan.

Some other commonly asked questions

Q. Can I buy a funeral plan for someone else?

Yes, we find that many of our customers choose to do this.

Q. Can I change my funeral plan arrangements?

Yes, you can make changes to your plan after you have taken it out. Just let us know what you wish to change. There may be an additional cost if you add new features and services to your plan.

Q. Does the plan cover the entire cost of the funeral?

The plan covers the funeral director's costs listed in the plan details as long as your requirements don't change and your selected funeral director carries out your funeral.

The plan can also include an allowance towards third party costs such as the fees for cremation or burial, medical fees and payment to a minister or officiant. These costs are outside of our control. If these costs, as listed in the plan details, are not covered by the plan value at the time of need, there will be a balance to pay. Please refer to the Terms and Conditions for more information.

Q. Can I cancel my plan?

Yes, you can cancel your plan at any time. If you choose to cancel the plan up to 30 days from the date of purchase you'll receive a full refund. If you cancel the plan after 30 days, you'll receive a refund of the original amount paid, excluding the management fee.

Q. Can I pay for my plan by instalments?

Yes, you are able to pay over 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 years. Please note there is an additional cost for paying by instalments over 2, 3, 4 or 5 years. The additional cost is held in the pre-payment plan and used for the funeral when the time comes.

Q. What happens if I pay by instalments and need to cancel future payments?

If you choose to pay by monthly instalments and you wish to stop paying for any reason, you can either cancel the plan and receive a refund of the money you have paid excluding the management fee, or you can leave what you have paid in the plan to be used as a contribution to your funeral when the time comes.

And, if your plan is needed before you have completed your instalments, the payments you have made will be used as a contribution to your funeral and your wishes will be clearly documented, giving your family peace of mind.

Q. What happens if I die abroad?

The plan does not cover the cost of a funeral abroad, or the cost of repatriating the deceased. It is therefore important that your travel insurance policy covers this.

About Ecclesiastical Planning Services

As one of the UK's leading funeral plan providers and part of the Ecclesiastical Group, Ecclesiastical Planning Services works with over 800 funeral directing firms across the country, providing a safe home for your funeral plan pre-payment funds. Ecclesiastical is a specialist UK-based financial services group which has been protecting people, property and funds since 1887. Ecclesiastical's values of honesty, integrity, fairness and financial security mean that you are in safe hands.

A hallmark of quality

The plans we offer comply with the Funeral Planning Authority (FPA) Code of Practice, ensuring customer protection and the highest standards through an independent compliance committee. In addition, Ecclesiastical sets out to work with funeral directors that are members of a recognised trade association and therefore comply with a code of practice when carrying out your funeral.

Recognised by the National Association of Funeral Directors as the most robust and professionally-managed funeral pre-payment plan available to independent funeral directors and their customers (2018).

Recognised by Fairer Finance as "doing more to promote transparency and fair value for customers"

Fairer Finance report, July 2017.



Taking out a plan is easy

Simply follow these three steps to put your funeral plan in place.

1

Have a think about how you want to be remembered and decide what services you require.

2

Next, choose whether you want to make a single payment or spread the cost and pay by monthly instalments.

3

Finally, complete the application process to take out a plan.

If you would prefer a burial rather than a cremation, or wish to discuss a Personal Plan which can be tailored to your own wishes, please call us.

If you want to buy a plan for someone else, would like to set up a joint plan, or wish to pay by instalments, please contact us and we will arrange this for you.



By taking out a funeral plan now, you could save your next of kin some money.

When you've taken out your plan

Once you've taken out your funeral plan you'll receive your welcome pack including your Certificate of Entitlement, which should be kept in a safe place.

Simply let your family members know about your plan and then relax knowing that your affairs are in order for when the time comes.



Get in touch

For help or advice with any aspect of funeral planning or to find out more about pre-arranged funeral plans get in touch today.



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