

Who Has the Right to Make Funeral Arrangements in Michigan?

Although a funeral director must carry out disposition arrangements, the right to make final decisions about a person's body and [funeral services](#) usually goes to a relative of the deceased person. This right and responsibility goes to the following people, in order:

- a person you name in a "funeral representative declaration" made before your death
- your surviving spouse
- your adult children
- your adult grandchildren
- your parents
- your grandparents
- your siblings
- nieces and nephew
- the medical examiner
- ([Michigan Compiled Laws § 700.3206](#) (2020).)
- If there is more than one member of a class described above -- for example, if you have several children or many siblings -- decisions must be made by a majority of them. If they cannot agree, they will have to go to court to resolve their dispute. ([Michigan Compiled Laws § 700.3206\(5\)](#).)

If no next-of-kin exists or can be located after reasonable efforts, funeral arrangements and final disposition decisions are made by the individuals in the following order of priority:

A guardian, if the deceased was under a guardianship at the time of death.

A personal representative named in a will.

A person who voluntarily steps forward to make arrangements and disposition decisions and petitions the Probate Court to obtain authority as a special personal representative or fiduciary.

If no one else exists, then the county public administrator, if willing, or county medical examiner may make decisions.



**AUTHORIZATION & DIRECTION FOR CREMATION AND
DISPOSITION OF CREMATED REMAINS**

INSTRUCTIONS

PLEASE PRINT AND COMPLETE THIS FORM. TAKE A PHOTO OF OR SCAN EACH PAGE AND EMAIL TO:

Info@AffordableCremationServices.com

If you can not email, you may bring this form to:

622 S. Burdick St. Kalamazoo, MI 49007

The undersigned (hereinafter referred to as the "Authorized Representative(s)") hereby certify that they are the closest living legal next-of-kin of the herein named deceased, having full legal authority to authorize and direct the cremation, processing and disposition of the cremated remains of the deceased, authorize and direct the **Affordable Cremation Services of Michigan** to take possession of and make arrangements for the cremation, processing and disposition of the remains of the deceased,

(Full Legal Name)

Date of Death: _____ Place of Death: _____
(City, State)

Cremated remains consist primarily of bone fragments, which are reduced to permit their placement in an urn or other suitable container, unless a suitable container is purchased, the **Affordable Cremation Services of Michigan** will place such remains in a container which is designed for short term use and not recommended, and in many cases not allowed, for earth burial at a cemetery.

The Undersigned agree to release and hold harmless the **Langeland Family Cremation Center**, its affiliates and their agents, and employees, from any and all loss, damages, liabilities, claims for relief or causes of action, including, but not limited to, costs, expenses and attorney's fees, in connection with the cremation of the cremated remains as authorized and directed herein.

No cremation may take place without written authorization (including overnight letters, emails or facsimile transmissions) from the Authorized Representative(s) of the deceased. Generally, the closest next-of-kin is the surviving person or persons listed as follows in the following order: (1) Spouse; (2) Children; (3) Grandchildren and thereafter the issue thereof; (4) Parent(s); (5) Siblings; (6) Nephews and nieces; (7) Grandnephews and grandnieces and thereafter the issue thereof; (8) Grandparents; (9) Uncle(s) and aunt(s);

(10) First cousins and thereafter the issue thereof. ***A majority of persons within the same degree of kinship must sign or authorize the cremation and disposal of cremated remains in writing or by overnight letter, email or facsimile transmission if they are the closest living next-of-kin.***

SIGNATURE AND ID OF THE AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE(S) FOR CREMATION AND DISPOSITION:

Name (printed) _____
Address _____

Phone _____
Signature _____
Relationship _____



Name (printed) _____
Address _____

Phone _____
Signature _____
Relationship _____



Name (printed) _____
Address _____

Phone _____
Signature _____
Relationship _____



Name (printed) _____
Address _____

Phone _____
Signature _____
Relationship _____



POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

The cremation, processing and disposition of the remains of the deceased shall be performed in accordance with all governing laws, and the policies, procedures and requirements of Langeland Family Cremation Center(LFCC) and **Affordable Cremation Services of Michigan**.

*This document describes many of the policies and requirements of LFCC and is incorporated in the Cremation Authorization Form.
We suggest you take the time to read this document carefully before executing the Cremation Authorization Form.*

LFCC's REQUIREMENTS FOR CREMATION

Cremation will take place only after all the following conditions have been met:

- 1) Any scheduled ceremonies or viewings have been completed.
- 2) Civil and medical authorities have issued all required permits.
- 3) All necessary authorizations have been obtained and no objections have been raised.

CASKETS/CONTAINERS

LFCC requires either a casket or an alternative (cremation) container for cremation. All caskets and alternative containers must meet the following standards: 1) To be composed of materials suitable for cremation; 2) be able to be closed to provide a complete covering for the human remains; 3) be resistant to leakage or spillage; 4) be sufficient for handling with ease; and 5) be able to provide protection for the health and safety of crematory personnel.

Many caskets that are comprised primarily of combustible material also contain some exterior parts, e.g., decorative handles or rails that are not combustible and that may cause damage to the cremation equipment. LFCC, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to remove these non-combustible materials prior to cremation and to dispose of or recycle them with similar materials from other cremations and other refuse in a non-recoverable manner.

PACEMAKERS, PROSTHESES AND RADIOACTIVE DEVICES

Pacemakers and prostheses, as well as any other mechanical or radioactive devices or implants in the decedent, may create a hazardous condition when placed in the cremation chamber. It is imperative that pacemakers and radioactive devices be removed prior to cremation. If **Affordable Cremation Services of Michigan** is not notified about such devices and implants and not instructed to remove them, then the person(s) authorizing the cremation will be responsible for any damages caused to LFCC or crematory personnel by such devices or implants.

THE CREMATION PROCESS

All cremations are performed individually. Exceptions are only made in very special cases and then only with the prior written instructions of the Authorizing Agent(s).

Cremation is performed by placing the deceased in a casket or other container and then placing the casket or container into a cremation chamber or retort, where they are subjected to intense heat and flame. During the cremation process, it may be necessary to open the cremation chamber and reposition the deceased in order to facilitate a complete and thorough cremation. Through the use of a suitable fuel, incineration of the container and contents is accomplished and all substances are consumed or driven off except bone fragments (calcium compounds) and metal (including dental gold and silver and other non-human material) as the temperature is not sufficient to consume them.

Due to the nature of the cremation process any personal possessions or valuable materials, such as dental gold or jewelry (as well as any body prosthesis or dental bridgework), that are left with the decedent and not removed from the casket or container prior to cremation will be destroyed or if not destroyed, will be disposed of or recycled by LFCC in a non-recoverable manner. The casket or container **will not** be opened by LFCC (to remove valuable, to allow for a final viewing or for any other reason). Arrangements must be made with the **Affordable Cremation Services of Michigan** to remove any such possessions or valuables prior to the time that the decedent is transported to LFCC.

Following a cooling period, the cremated remains, which normally weigh several pounds in the case of average size adult, are then swept or raked from the cremation chamber. LFCC makes a *diligent* effort to remove all of the cremated remains from the cremation chamber, but it is impossible to remove all of them, as some dust and other residue from the process are always left behind. In addition, while every effort will be made to avoid commingling, inadvertent or incidental commingling of minute particles of cremated remains from the residue of previous cremations is a possibility.

After the cremated remains are removed from the cremation chamber, all non-combustible materials (insofar as possible), such as bridgework and materials from the casket or container, such as hinges, latches, nails, etc. will be separated and removed from the human bone fragments by visible or magnetic selection and will be disposed of or recycled by LFCC with similar materials from other cremations in a non-recoverable manner.

When the cremated remains are removed from the cremation chamber, the skeletal remains often contain recognizable bone fragments. Unless otherwise specified, after the bone fragments have been separated from the other material, they will then be mechanically processed (pulverized). This process of crushing or grinding may cause incidental commingling of the remains with the residue from the processing of previously cremated remains. These granulated particles of unidentifiable dimensions will be virtually unrecognizable as human remains. The color of the cremains may range from white to black and is normally dependent upon the type of container/casket used for cremation.

URNS/CONTAINERS

After the cremated remains have been processed, they will be placed in the designated urn. LFCC will make a reasonable effort to place all of the cremated remains in the urn or container, with the exception of dust or other residue that may remain on the processing equipment. In the event the urn provided is insufficient to accommodate all of the cremated remains, the excess will be placed in a separate receptacle. The separate receptacle will be kept with the primary receptacle.

LFCC requires that all urns or containers provided be appropriate for shipping or permanent storage, and that in the case of an adult, it is recommended that the urn or container be a minimum size of 200 cubic inches. If such an urn or container is not provided for the cremated remains, then LFCC will place the cremated remains in a container designed for shipping or permanent storage.

FINAL DISPOSITION

Cremation is **not** final disposition, nor is placing the cremated remains in storage at **Affordable Cremation Services of Michigan** final disposition. The cremation process simply reduced the decedent's body to cremated remains. These cremated remains usually weigh several pounds and usually measure in excess of 150 cubic inches. Some provision must be made for the final disposition of these cremated remains.

If the final disposition of the cremated remains has not been completed within 30 days of the cremation, then **Affordable Cremation Services of Michigan** shall be authorized to arrange for the final disposition of the cremated remains in any manner permitted by law.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

The obligations of LFCC shall be limited to the cremation of the decedent and the disposition of the decedent's cremated remains as authorized on the Cremation Authorization Form. No warranties expressed or implied are made and damages shall be limited to the amount of the cremation fee paid.