

# Resource List for Consumers

*Funeral Consumers Alliance of Western Massachusetts  
updated 1/13/23 by Sandy Ward*

Helpful organizations and WEBSITES:

## **Funeral Consumers Alliance (FCA) [Funerals.org](https://www.funerals.org)**

The tab “Consumers” leads to informative webpages on various topics, e.g.,

- Your Funeral Rights
- Four-Step Funeral Planning: Where to Start...
- 10 Tips for Saving Funeral Dollars
- How to Pay for a Funeral

If you prefer printable pamphlets on these topics, see [funerals.org/resources/faq-pamphlets](https://www.funerals.org/resources/faq-pamphlets).

A 30-page planner **Before I Go, You Should Know** (digital \$9.99 or printed \$15; Spanish or English) may be ordered from the FCA store. The website also has a state-by-state directory of affiliate groups, such as ours:

## **Funeral Consumers Alliance of Western Mass (FCAWM) [www.funeralconsumerswmass.org](http://www.funeralconsumerswmass.org)**

See our comparative price chart, directory of funeral homes in our region, and helpful information about rights and options in Massachusetts.

## **Federal Trade Commission (FTC) [www.consumer.ftc.gov](http://www.consumer.ftc.gov)**

Consumer Rights under the Funeral Rule: [www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0300-ftc-funeral-rule](http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0300-ftc-funeral-rule)  
(part of a series “Shopping for Funerals” available in English and Spanish)

## **National Home Funeral Alliance [homefuneralalliance.org](http://homefuneralalliance.org)**

Educating families and communities to care for their own loved ones after death.

## **Green Burial Massachusetts [www.greenburialma.org](http://www.greenburialma.org)**

Green or natural burial: [homefuneralalliance.org/green-burial-cemeteries.html](http://homefuneralalliance.org/green-burial-cemeteries.html)

## **Donate Life [donatelife.net/understanding-donation/](http://donatelife.net/understanding-donation/) Organ, Eye, and Tissue donation**

Whole Body donation to medical schools and universities in Massachusetts:

- **Anatomical Gift Program at UMass Chan Medical School**  
[www.umassmed.edu/agp](http://www.umassmed.edu/agp)
- **Forensic Anthropology at Boston University**  
[www.bumc.bu.edu/gms/forensic-anthropology/anatomical-gift-donation/](http://www.bumc.bu.edu/gms/forensic-anthropology/anatomical-gift-donation/)
- **Harvard Anatomical Gift Program**  
[meded.hms.harvard.edu/anatomical-gift-program](http://meded.hms.harvard.edu/anatomical-gift-program)
- **Tufts Anatomical Gift Program**  
[medicine.tufts.edu/academics/medicine/anatomical-gift-program](http://medicine.tufts.edu/academics/medicine/anatomical-gift-program)

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## BOOKS:

- **Final Rights: Reclaiming the American Way of Death** by Joshua Slocum & Lisa Carlson (2011)
- **The American Way of Death Revisited** by Jessica Mitford (1998, revision of her 1963 classic)
- **A Good Goodbye: Funeral planning for those who don't plan to die** by Gail Rubin (2010)
- **Grave Matters: A Journey through the Modern Funeral Industry to a Natural Way of Burial** by Mark Harris (See also website: [www.gravematters.us/faqs.html](http://www.gravematters.us/faqs.html))
- **Choosing Your Path: How Massachusetts Residents Can Take Control of Their Medical Care, Estate Plans, and Funeral Arrangements** by Mark J. Bernardin (2005)
- **Dealing Creatively with Death: A Manual of Death Education and Simple Burial** by Ernest Morgan (14th revised edition, 2001.)