Resource List for Consumers

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Western Massachusetts

Helpful organizations and WEBSITES

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Western Mass (FCAWM) www.funeralconsumerswmass.org
See our comparative price chart; directory of funeral homes in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden counties; and helpful information about rights and options in Massachusetts. We collaborated with an eastern Mass group and created a state-wide website: FuneralsMA.org .

Funeral Consumers Alliance (FCA) Funerals.org
A nonprofit federation of consumer information groups dedicated to protecting consumers' rights to choose meaningful and affordable funerals. FCA and its affiliate groups offer education on funeral options and controlling costs. FCA has published a handy planner, **Before I Go, You Should Know**, (digital $10, print $15 funerals.org/store/); FCAWM can provide print copies, English or Spanish.

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) www.consumer.ftc.gov
Consumer Rights under the Funeral Rule: 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
Educating families and communities to care for their own loved ones after death.

Green Burial Massachusetts www.greenburialma.org
Includes a searchable table of cemeteries in MA that allow green burial, a.k.a. natural burial.

Donate Life 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
- **Harvard Anatomical Gift Program**
  meded.hms.harvard.edu/anatomical-gift-program
- **Tufts Anatomical Gift Program**
  medicine.tufts.edu/academics/medicine/anatomical-gift-program
- **Forensic Anthropology at Boston University** (skeletal collection)
  www.bumc.bu.edu/gms/forensic-anthropology/anatomical-gift-donation/

A few BOOKS of special interest

- **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 (2008)
- **Dealing Creatively with Death: A Manual of Death Education and Simple Burial** by Ernest Morgan (14th revised edition, 2001)

October 2026