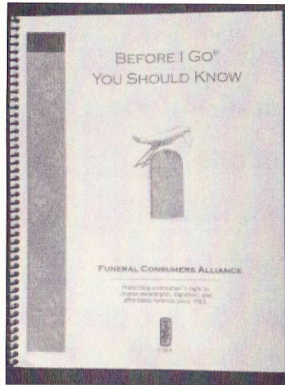


I'm interested in helping to carry on the work of FCAEM by:

- \_\_\_ joining our price survey committee
- \_\_\_ becoming newsletter Editor or assistant
- \_\_\_ joining Speakers Bureau
- \_\_\_ assisting in website maintenance
- \_\_\_ attending public meetings of the Mass Board of Registration of Embalming and Funeral Directing
- \_\_\_ serving on FCAEM's Board of Directors



Note that brochures on various topics, and the *Before I Go* planner may be downloaded from the website of the national FCA (funerals.org).

Please cut off and mail with check or money order to

**Funeral Consumers Alliance of Eastern Massachusetts**

66 Marlborough Street, Boston, MA 02116

617-859-7990

www.fcaemass.org

fcaemass@gmail.com

We do not share our membership list outside of the FCA network

## Did you know.....?

- **A conventional funeral in the U.S. can cost over \$8000.00. And that is just what you'd pay for the funeral. It doesn't include what you have paid for burial space and other cemetery costs.**

FCAEM members learn how to purchase simpler services for a fraction of the cost.

- **Most individuals never share their funeral or burial wishes with their family members.**

FCAEM members receive forms and instructions on how to communicate this information, sparing relatives from difficult, expensive decisions.

- **Embalming and fancy caskets are not required for cremation or burial.**

FCAEM members can avoid unnecessary procedures and expenses by learning what is required and what is optional.

- **Neither your will nor your safe deposit box is a good place to put your funeral plan.**

FCAEM members learn to keep their written instructions in a readily accessible place.



**Join the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Eastern Massachusetts to learn more about your rights and options**

**FUNERAL CONSUMERS ALLIANCE OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS**

66 Marlborough Street  
Boston, MA 02116



# Don't Get Caught Dead Without Us!



## Funeral Consumers Alliance of Eastern Massachusetts

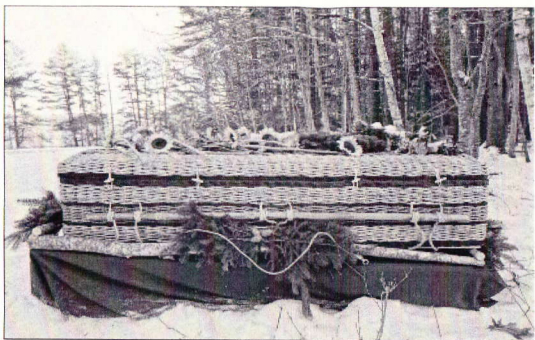
Protecting your right to choose meaningful, dignified, and affordable final arrangements

## THE NEED FOR ADVANCE PLANNING

- **Have you considered what immediate decisions your family must make when you die?**
- **Have you and your family discussed these decisions and arrived at a plan?**
- **Does your present plan provide the funeral arrangements that you and your family really want, and can afford?**

When death occurs in a family that has done no advance planning, the survivors may accept conventional and costly funeral arrangements because of social pressure, emotional stress or lack of time. The planning booklet, *Before I Go*, which you will receive upon joining FCAEM, will guide you as you make your plans.

Planning ahead is a loving gift for your family and close friends. By **making plans now**, you ease the burden on your survivors. They won't have to guess what you might have wanted, and will know how to pay for what you do want. They can focus on grieving their loss and celebrating your life.



## WHO WE ARE WHAT WE DO

FCAEM had its beginnings in 1959 as one of several memorial societies starting up in various states in response to abuses by the funeral industry, mainly funeral homes and cemeteries.

FCAEM is non-profit, staffed by volunteers and supported by donations, including a one-time membership donation. It is independent of the funeral industries and religious or other groups. Membership is open to all.

We educate consumers by means of our informative website ([fcaemass.org](http://fcaemass.org)), an annual meeting with educational speakers, our annual newsletter, a response phone line left open for messages (617-859-7990), and by periodically publishing a funeral price survey on our website. We also have a goal to monitor relevant legislation and the funeral industry in our state to ensure fairness and protection of the rights of consumers.

FCAEM is an affiliate of the national Funeral Consumers Alliance ([funerals.org](http://funerals.org)). FCA monitors the funeral industry, advocates for beneficial federal and state policies, and develops resources for use by affiliates and consumers.

FCAEM recently coordinated with FCAWM to create a state-wide resource for funeral information ([funeralsma.org](http://funeralsma.org)).

Thanks to FCAWM, from whose brochure we adapted the title and much of the text of this brochure.

## How you benefit . . .

- You become an **educated consumer**, able to shop for services with knowledge of your rights and options.
- You can get **advice** from knowledgeable volunteers who are not selling funeral services.
- You learn **why you should plan ahead** for the final arrangements you want.
- You learn **why it may not be wise to pre-pay** for these arrangements and what you may do instead.
- You **learn about options:** conventional burial, green burial, cremation, organ or whole body donation, home funeral and other choices.

## Members receive . . .

- The *Before I Go, You Should Know* planning booklet, Massachusetts Health Care Proxy form, and informative brochures.
- The annual FCAEM newsletter.
- FCAEM's periodic survey of funeral services and prices.
- Invitation to FCAEM member events, including our annual meeting.
- Access to information and answers to many questions about funeral plans.
- The satisfaction of supporting an organization that helps many people, often at a difficult time, with information and advice.

## BECOME A MEMBER

**Please enroll me in the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Eastern Massachusetts** and send me the *Before I Go* planner and membership packet. I am enclosing the suggested membership donation of \$40.

**Please enroll me in FCAEM** and send me the *Before I Go* planner and membership packet. I am a person of limited means and enclose a membership donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Best telephone \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about FCAEM?

What are your primary reasons for joining?

**I enclose an additional contribution to FCAEM** of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support its programs.

Note: We are a 501(c)(3) charitable group; all contributions beyond the \$15 cost of the planning booklet, sent upon enrolling as a new member, are tax-deductible.

**See reverse side for additional options**