



A guide to pre-paying your own funeral



Pre-Paying Your Own Funeral – Funeral

We plan for nearly every financial eventuality we may face in life - investing for retirement and having health, house and contents insurance. Yet when it comes to funerals, many of us don't like to think about them, let alone plan for them in advance.

However, times are changing as more and more people want to pre-arrange their funeral so that their service reflects who they are in life and relieve their family of some of the stress of organizing a funeral service. Also pre-paying a funeral can mean families do not face a financial burden upon their death.

All Funeral-Link companies are New Zealand Owned and are members of the Funeral Directors Association of NZ (FDANZ). The receipt, holding and disbursement of the accrued sum in Prepaid Plans by the Company are subject to audit and disclosure to the FDANZ as determined by its rules.



Funeral-Link Prepaid Funerals Trust Ltd

Planning and paying for your funeral in advance may seem a difficult task to face, but like making a will, the ideal time to make these plans is well beforehand, without worry or stress.

Why a Funeral-Link Prepaid Funeral Plan?

Experience has shown the need to be able to plan for funerals in advance. Funeral-Link Prepaid Funeral Plan is a way of arranging your funeral in advance and pre-paying for it at the same time.

Benefits of the Funeral-Link Prepaid Funeral Plan

- You are able to choose your own individual funeral service.
- Your family and friends are relieved of financial and some emotional burden.
- Peace of mind - knowing your affairs are in order.

Pre - Planning Your Own Funeral

Your local Funeral-Link funeral director will answer your questions and assist you with those important decisions in planning your funeral – the type of funeral service required, burial or cremation, choice of casket, flowers, catering, headstone or plaques, and the many other items associated with the modern funeral.

Dealing with a Funeral-Link funeral director you can have the peace of mind knowing that your wishes are known and that you have made arrangements for them to be carried out. As many funeral directors will tell you, it is not unusual for the grieving family to be unaware of the deceased's funeral wishes. Pre-arranging and/or pre-paying your funeral means your wishes about how you'd like things to be at your funeral are known and can be respected.

- Flexibility - funeral arrangements can be altered if circumstances change.
- Should you move away from your current location your plan is portable and a Funeral-Link funeral director anywhere in New Zealand may access the funds upon death.
- Your wishes and preferences are carefully documented and you receive a copy for your records.
- Up to \$10,000 of funds held in a Funeral-Link Prepaid Funeral Plan are excluded from asset testing (under current government policy) when assessing eligibility for a subsidy for long-term residential care for the elderly.

It should be noted this is not an investment in any way. You are paying for a service in advance, and therefore the expectation is that you will receive the funeral in return.

Non Fixed Price Funeral Plan

Note this plan earns interest on all the money you deposit.

With the non fixed price funeral plan, the funeral director writes down your wishes and you have the flexibility of placing any amount into your plan. You can pay a single lump sum; or if preferred you can make an initial deposit of \$1500 then follow this up with instalments of \$1000 at any time. All money is held in a Trust Account on Term Deposit at Westpac.

Upon death the funeral home sends out the funeral invoice and a death certificate to Funeral-Link Prepaid Funerals. If there is insufficient money in the plan to cover the funeral an account is sent by the funeral home to your executor or next of kin for the balance owing. If there is too much money in the fund, the balance is refunded to your estate.

How do I join?

Contact your Funeral-Link funeral director and make an appointment to meet.

After discussion your funeral preferences are recorded. You are able to make decisions on the type of funeral you prefer, on burial or cremation, even on the choice of casket or coffin, also any other special requirements. It may be desirable to have the family present during these discussions.

We then calculate the funeral cost at current rates to give you an idea of prices. A contract for pre-payment of funeral services will be prepared. On your

At A Glance

- No age restrictions
- Guaranteed acceptance regardless of state of health (no medical questions are asked)
- Payment is made upon receipt of the funeral invoice and death certificate
- Any remaining funds after the funeral invoice is paid are refunded promptly to the estate
- Nationwide coverage through Funeral-Link funeral directors.
- 21 day ability to opt out of the plan should you change your mind.



acceptance, the total sum is paid into the Funeral-Link Prepaid Funerals Trust Ltd bank account; the funds are currently placed on Term Deposit in a Westpac Trust account similar to those operated by most solicitors. At this point you have purchased the funeral on the conditions laid out in the Funeral-Link Prepaid Funeral Contract.

A certificate of participation will be posted to you within 14 days. We suggest you keep this information in a safe place and advise your next of kin or solicitor of the funeral plan.

Who meets all interest tax obligations?

At the time of pre-paying your funeral, we obtain your IRD number and your tax status. Tax is then deducted at the correct rate by the bank on your behalf.

We will provide you with an annual statement which will show the amount of interest that has been applied to the funds which you have paid us.

Assurance

Because the Funeral-Link Prepaid Funeral Plan is built on security, both emotional and financial, it is important to deal with a funeral home that follows the strict codes of ethics that are set by FDANZ.

Please note that FDANZ does not guarantee any funds held in the Funeral-Link Prepaid Funerals Trust Ltd plan, nor does it guarantee any other prepaid funeral plans in the marketplace.

Frequently Asked Questions

What happens if I move overseas?

The amount you deposited with Funeral-Link Prepaid Funerals is refunded to you less set up fees and annual administration fees. You receive no interest on any money that was held.

What happens if I change funeral directors within the same town?

If that funeral director is not part of Funeral-Link then the amount you deposited with Funeral-Link Prepaid Funerals is refunded to your estate less set up fees and annual administration fees. Your estate receives no interest on any money that was held.

Are there any age or health restrictions?

Guaranteed acceptance regardless of age or state of health (no medical questions are asked).

Why is this not an investment?

You are purchasing a funeral service in advance.

What happens if the funeral company I signed up with goes out of business?

Because the funds are held with Funeral-Link Prepaid Funerals Ltd your money is safe and secure and is not linked to any one funeral home. Funds are released when a funeral home sends a funeral invoice and provides a copy of your Registered Death Certificate

What happens if I want to cancel my pre-paid funeral plan within 21 days of joining?

You will receive the original amount deposited. You receive no interest on any money that was held.

Are there fees associated with setting up the pre-paid funeral plan?

Fees are not deducted until the plan is closed - therefore all money you deposit and accrue is earning interest all the time.

- Annual administration is \$50 + GST a year or part year
- Set up fee of \$150 + GST for the Non-Fixed Price Funeral Plan



funeral·link

PREPAID FUNERALS TRUST LTD

www.prepaidfunerals.co.nz