The Advantages and Disadvantages of Choosing Cremation by Mitch

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Although not exactly a happy conversation topic, the matter of what happens to our body when we die is something that everyone is at some time going to have to decide. And while there are a number of different decisions that will have to be made, one of the most important is probably whether or not we want to be buried or cremated. Your answer to this question is important not just because it effects what happens to your body but also what arrangements your loved ones will have to handle once you pass. Should you be considering cremation, I will now outline both the advantages and disadvantages of this choice.

Advantages

Many people don't like the idea of being buried in a graveyard and prefer the idea of having their ashes spread somewhere that they were once happy. Although, the options open to you are limited if you are buried, when you are cremated, you can choose to have your ashes spread just about anywhere.

Although, the cost of cremation varies depending upon how you do it, if you simply want to be cremated without any of the extras, cremation is significantly cheaper than burial. It is therefore the best option for those that don't want to leave their loved ones with expensive funeral bills.

Those who have been environmentally conscious during their lives often want to be so in death also. Should you be such a person, a significant advantage of cremation is that it is much better for the environment. No toxic embalming fluid is used, no carbon footprint is left digging a grave and no non degradable coffin is put in the ground.

The final advantage of cremation is that it makes the funeral arrangements much more flexible. When you opt to be buried, there is only a fixed period of time for your loved ones to make the funeral arrangements. When you are cremated on the other hand, the funeral could theoretically take place a number weeks after you pass. Although such a delay is unusual, the lack of a time constraint makes planning the funeral of somebody that has been cremated much less stressful.

Disadvantages

The primary disadvantage in most peoples minds is that your body will not be left in a fixed location and as such, you will not have a burial patch where your family, if religious, can come to pay respects to you. For many people a burial patch is a very important thing to leave behind and it's importance to you is something that only you can decide. Many experts also agree that a burial patch is very helpful during the grieving process.

Another disadvantage of cremation and one that influences many peoples final decision is that cremation is not considered an option in some religions whereas no religion forbids burial. For some people, the religion of their loved ones, as well as their own, demands consideration.

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