

A person's death is a time for mourning and honouring the life that is now gone.

If a family member has passed away and you need help to pay for their funeral costs, you might be eligible for a funeral supplement. We can help pay for funeral costs if:

- » They can't be covered through the individual's estate or family unit
- » There are no other resources available to cover this expense

These services are available to all residents of British Columbia.

For More Information

- » Visit our website at gov.bc.ca/sdpr
- » Call us at 1-866-866-0800
- » Access income and disability assistance services online at myselfserve.gov.bc.ca
- » Visit your local employment and assistance office



Ministry Assistance with Funeral Costs



Ministry of
Social Development
and Poverty Reduction

Overview of Assistance

We must follow legislation when making eligibility decisions. To be eligible, your application must include:

- » Confirmation that there are no resources available through the:
 - Deceased's estate, spouse or parent if the deceased was a minor, or
 - The sponsor of a deceased immigrant

What is a Legal Representative?

If a legal representative is determined, they may apply for a supplement to cover funeral costs. The legal representative is usually a relative. If a relative can't assume this role or if there is no legal representative, we may make direct arrangements with the funeral home. Section 5 of the *Cemetery, Interment and Funeral Services Act* further explains these guidelines.

What is Covered?

Eligible expenses include:

- » Funeral provider's service fees
- » Casket or urn costs (up to maximums)
- » Cemetery or crematorium fees
- » Burial or interment plot costs

Funeral Provider's Service Fee

Items eligible under the fee include:

- » Bereavement rites and ceremonies
- » Transportation of a deceased person's body within British Columbia (up to maximums)
- » Registration of death
- » Burial or cremation permit
- » Staff support for services and visitation
- » Counselling and coordination services, including with the:
 - Legal representative
 - Crematorium
 - Cemetery
- » Preparing a deceased person's body for burial or cremation, including:
 - Basic sanitary care
 - Casketing

» Use of funeral facilities and equipment, including:

- Preparation room
- Refrigeration
- Parking and service areas

Additional items and services not covered by the ministry may be purchased at the expense of:

- » Families
- » Organizations
- » Other individuals

Items paid for by the ministry, such as the casket or plot, cannot be upgraded by the:

- » Surviving spouse
- » Parent of a minor child
- » Sponsor of a sponsored immigrant

Funeral supplements are a debt to the government and may be recovered from the estate of the deceased.

Information Requirements

To establish eligibility, we need:

- » The name and address of the deceased
- » The name of the next of kin or a person who can assume responsibility
- » A request to cover funeral costs