FUNERAL PLANS AND INSURANCE

ALL INCLUSIVE FUNERAL CONTRACTS/ PLANS (FORFAITS CONTRATS OBSEQUES) VIA A FUNERAL HOME

Each funeral home will have affiliations with a company who will provide funeral plans. Through these plans it is stipulated that upon your death a lump sum will be paid to the funeral home. Alternatively an ‘Assurance de Vie’ (insurance of life) is a product which gives access to any capital at the time of death and is not touched by inheritance tax.

As part of these plans your wishes on the type of funeral you want are written into a contract. A detailed cost estimate is then given based on the services you have requested. The premium paid is the amount of the estimate. You can either pay a lump sum or make monthly, quarterly or annual payments.

These plans are designed for people aged 18 to 85 years in premiums that can be spread over a period of 1 – 15 years. However if you take out a funeral plan and you are older than 75 years at the time of taking out the plan, then you must make a single payment. No medical questionnaire or declaration of your health is required to purchase a funeral plan.

You can cancel your contract at any time if you so wish. During the 30 days following the signing of the contract this can be done by sending a letter and any payments already made will be reimbursed. Beyond 30 days the surrender value is then calculated based on the life of the contract and the number of payments made.

Funeral plans are also operational for all deaths occurring abroad; however the stay abroad should not EXCEED 3 MONTHS – the policy will usually cover repatriation in this case.

It should be noted that these plans do not include the cost of cremation or burial which will have to be paid in addition.

INSURANCE POLICIES – OBTAINED VIA YOUR INSURANCE PROVIDER

Insurance policies to cover your funeral expenses are normally offered by insurance companies that also provide your house, car or life insurance.

Anyone between the ages of 18-84 years can usually take out insurance cover for funeral expenses without a medical questionnaire. If you are self-employed living in France, paying your Maladie health insurance payments to a company e.g. Mutelle Grand Sud, you can pay an additional sum for funeral insurance to be added. If you are not self employed you can take out insurance cover for funeral expenses also through your provider.

An amount is decided upon, depending on what you believe would cover your funeral expenses. This would vary according to your wishes – cremation/burial/repatriation. The policy can then be made out to a beneficiary who will be paying for the funeral costs.

Monthly payments vary depending on your age at commencement, but can be as little as €20 per month at the age of 65 years.