

THE CREMATION PROCESS

All cremations are performed individually. Exceptions are only made in the case of close relatives, and then only with the prior written instruction of the authorizing agent(s).

Cremation is performed by placing the deceased in a combustible casket or other container and then placing the casket or container into a cremation chamber or retort, where they are subjected to intense heat and flame. During the cremation process it may be necessary to open the cremation chamber and reposition the deceased in order to facilitate a complete and thorough cremation, or due to a malfunction with the operation of the retort. Through the use of suitable fuel, incineration of the container and contents is accomplished and all substances are consumed or driven off, except bone fragments (calcium compounds) and metal including dental gold and silver and other non-human material).

Due to the nature of the cremation process, any personal possessions or valuable materials, such as dental gold or jewelry (as well as any body prosthesis or dental bridgework) that are left with the decedent and not removed from the casket or container prior to cremation will be destroyed, or if not destroyed, will be disposed of by the crematory.

Following a cooling period of the cremated remains, which normally weigh several pounds in the case of an average size adult, the remains are then swept or raked from the cremation chamber. The crematory makes a reasonable effort to remove all of the cremated remains from the cremation chamber, but it is impossible to remove all of them as some dust and other residue from the process are always left behind. In addition, while every effort will be made to avoid co-mingling, inadvertent or incidental co-mingling of minute particles of cremated remains from the residue of previous cremations is a possibility.

After the cremated remains are removed from the cremation chamber, all noncombustible materials (insofar as possible), such as metal joints, and materials from the casket or container, such as hinges, latches, nails, etc., will be separated and removed from the bone fragments by visible selection and will be disposed of by the crematory with similar materials from other cremations in a non-recoverable manner.

When the cremated remains are removed from the cremation chamber, the skeletal remains often contain recognizable bone fragments. Unless otherwise specified, after the bone fragments have been separated from the other material, they will then be mechanically processed (pulverized). This process of crushing or grinding may cause incidental co-mingling of the remains with the residue from the processing of previously cremated remains. These granulated particles of unidentifiable dimension will be virtually unrecognizable as human remains.

After the cremated remains have been processed, they will be placed in the designated urn or container. The crematory will make a reasonable effort to put all of the cremated remains in the urn or container, with the exception of dust or other residue that may remain on the processing equipment. In the event the urn or container provided is insufficient to accommodate all of the cremated remains, the excess will be placed in a separate receptacle. The separate receptacle will be kept with the primary receptacle.