BurialFinalExpense

FREE WORKSHEET

Burial budget worksheet: bills, money on hand and the gap

Fill it in with a pen: four steps to an amount

This worksheet works out the gap between the funeral bills and the money your family could reach within days, then tests whether a monthly premium fits your budget.

Step 1: The bills

Use written totals. For a starting point, the 2023 national medians from the National Funeral Directors Association are **$8,300** for a viewing and burial and **$6,280** for a viewing and cremation, before cemetery charges.

Line	What to enter	Where to find it
A	Funeral home total	The written General Price List and statement
B	Cemetery or crematory, plot, marker	A written quote from the cemetery
C	Flowers, obituary, meals, travel	Your own estimate
D	Last medical bills or card balances	Statements the family will carry
E	Total bills: A + B + C + D	Add the four lines

Write your total bills (line E)

General education, not insurance, legal or tax advice. Figures are examples unless a source is named. Prices and rules vary by state and insurer.

Step 2: Money your family can reach within days

Count only money that is not tied up until an estate is opened. A joint account, cash or a policy that already names the person paying can count. An account in one name often cannot.

Line	What to enter	Where to find it
F	Cash and joint accounts	Bank statements
G	Social Security death payment: $255 if an eligible spouse or child	ssa.gov, survivor benefits
H	A policy already in force	The face amount on the policy
I	Money available: F + G + H	Add the three lines

Write your money available (line I)

Step 3: The gap

E - I

Gap = line E minus line I
If it is zero or less, the money you listed covers the bills as entered.

Round the gap**up** to the next $1,000. That is the amount to price. Plans are often sold in steps of $1,000 or $5,000.

The gap, rounded up, is the coverage amount to price

Step 4: Does the premium fit?

Line	What to enter	Notes
J	Monthly income you can count on, after tax	Social Security, pension, steady pay
K	Fixed bills each month	Housing, utilities, food, medicine, transport
L	Monthly premium from a quote	From a licensed agent
M	Left each month: J - K - L	Keep a cushion for a hard month

> If M is zero or negative, try a smaller amount. A smaller policy you keep paying is worth more than a larger one that lapses and pays nothing.

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Step 5: Tell one person

Beneficiary and phone

Backup beneficiary and phone

Insurer and its claims phone

Policy number

Where the policy papers are kept

Sources

- NFDA: Funeral and cremation statistics
  nfda.org/news/statistics
- Social Security Administration: Survivor benefits
  www.ssa.gov/benefits/survivors/
- FTC: The Funeral Rule
  consumer.ftc.gov/articles/ftc-funeral-rule

Do the same sums on screen at burialfinalexpense.com/tools

burialfinalexpense.com/quote or call (888) 635-3511

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