

Unattended Direct Cremation Funeral Comparison Chart

In light of the growing interest in Unattended Direct Cremations and the marketing efforts by large corporate and online-only providers, we aim to clarify how our services differ as an independent, family-owned and operated Funeral Directors. We provide both Unattended Direct Cremations and Attended Direct Cremations. As a family business we take great pride in delivering a more personal, respectful and compassionate service for your loved one, and experience for you. We believe that even the simplest farewells should be meaningful.



Service Level	Alcocks and Hills Funeral Directors	Corporate/ Online Provider
Will I have a personal point of contact and face-to-face meetings ?	Yes. You will have a dedicated Funeral Director, who will support and guide you through the whole process ensuring you feel confident, comfortable and well-informed about the service and care you and your loved one will receive from us. 	No. Most corporate and online providers require you to complete an online form or to contact a call centre. 
Will my loved one be cared for locally?	Yes. Your loved one rests safely and securely at our fully-equipped Funeral Home in Cheadle, and is cared for by our qualified and compassionate team. 	No. Many corporate and online providers use large-scale mortuary facilities. These facilities are located across the country, and generally not local to where you live. 
Can I visit my loved one?	Yes. We have a Chapel of Rest at both of our Funeral Homes in Cheadle and Hazel Grove. These calm, quiet and private spaces allow you the time and opportunity to say your final goodbyes. 	No. These providers do not offer viewing, and their facilities are not designed for public visitation. 
Will my loved one be cared for and dressed?	Yes. Our qualified and compassionate team will care for your loved one with dignity. Washing and dressing them in their own clothes, or a gown, if you wish. We can also do their hair, shave them and apply make up - only with your permission. 	No. While they are kept in secure facilities, there is no option for dressing in their own clothes, or to receive any presentation or preparation treatments. 
Will I know the date, time and location of my loved one's Cremation?	Yes. We will hold your loved one's Cremation in a timely-fashion, at a local Crematorium. We will always let you know when and where the Cremation is taking place. 	You will be given the date only, and these providers usually use their own crematoria.
Will my loved one be transported by Hearse to the Crematorium?	Yes. We will carry (only) your loved one on their final journey in our traditional Hearse. 	No. They transport the deceased in private ambulances, often with capacity to carry more than one person at a time. 

Service Level	Alcocks/ Hills	Corporate/ Online Provider
Do I have a choice of Coffin?	Yes. A standard Coffin is included with our Direct Cremation Funeral. However, if you would like a different Coffin, your Funeral Director can help you to find the right choice for you. This will incur an additional charge. 	No. 
Can I place personal items and keepsakes in the Coffin with my loved one?	Yes. Many families find comfort in placing cards, letters, drawings and photos with their loved one. 	Only upon collection of your loved one. Items must be with your loved one at the initial pickup..
Will a Funeral Director accompany my loved one to the Crematorium?	Yes. One of our qualified Funeral Directors will always be in attendance and accompany your loved one to the Crematorium. 	No. Their advertised service states that they do not use a qualified Funeral Director at any stage. 
Can I provide a floral tribute?	Yes. We can arrange a floral tribute for you or you can organise it yourself. This will incur an additional charge. 	No. 
Will my loved one's ashes be available locally, soon after the Cremation?	Yes. We will bring your loved one's ashes into our care, and notify you. We will hold their ashes until you are ready to collect them. 	It is noted that ashes are delivered back to the recipient within a three week time scale.
Will I be looked after by a local, independent and experienced team?	Yes. We are a local, independent, family run Funeral Director having served bereaved families of Stockport, Greater Manchester, Cheshire, Tameside and beyond for over 160 years. 	No. Most state they do not employ a trained Funeral Director, and their staff are not independently based. As they care for the deceased all across Britain - including the Isle of Man - their service is not local and is usually coordinated remotely. 
Is everything included in the price?	Yes. Our Unattended Direct Cremation is £1895.00. Additional fees may apply for out-of-hours removal, different coffin, alternative crematorium and embalming. Your Funeral Director will provide a clear explanation of the options. 	Not always. Some providers advertise an all-inclusive price, but extra fees can apply depending on circumstances. For example, a home removal may incur an additional charge of around £225.00. 
What can I expect after the Unattended Direct Cremation takes place?	Our service and care continues long after your loved one's Funeral has taken place. We source ashes urns, scatter tubes and caskets. We arrange Ashes Interments and order Memorial Jewellery. We run a Bereavement Support Group, we hold Memorial Services, and our 'Remembering Loved Ones' Tree is displayed at Christmas Tree Festivals across Stockport. We are here to provide ongoing support. 	No. Most direct cremation companies do not provide ongoing aftercare. Their service typically ends at the point of cremation itself, and families may not receive any follow-up support, guidance or bereavement care. 