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Memorial Society of New Hampshire Records

1995-2000
1 box (0.25 linear feet)
Call no.: MS 1243

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Read collection overview

Background on Memorial Society of New Hampshire

Formed in the wake of investigative journalist Jessica Mitford's 1958 book exposé of exploitative funeral industry practices, The American Way of Death the Memorial Society of New Hampshire was registered as a non-profit organization on Dec 12, 1963 in Epping, NH as a watchdog and consumer advocacy organization for consumers of funeral services. Like similar organizations around the country, the Memorial Society was federated with other similar organizations to create the Continental Association of Funeral and Memorial Societies (CAFMS). When Canadian groups separated from CAFMS, the federation name changed to Funeral and Memorial Societies of America (FAMSA), and later (2000) the Funeral Consumers Alliance (FCA). As part of their work, they: conducted surveys of funeral home prices, generated newsletters, informational pamphlets, and end of life planning documents, organized informational programs, lobbied local and state legislatures to reform laws around funeral and burial practices. Their tax exempt status was revoked in 2011 after not filing 990 tax forms for three consecutive years.

Scope of collection

This small collection consists of records from the early 1990s to early 2000s and contains meeting minutes, financial reports, and materials produced by the group such as: newsletters, pamphlets, planning documents, and funeral home surveys.

Inventory

1993-2000
Board meeting: Agendas/minutes/finance reports
1994-1995
Box 1: 1
Board meeting: Agendas/minutes/finance reports
1995-1996
Box 1: 2
Board meetings: Agendas/minutes/finance reports
1996-2000
Box 1: 3
Board members: Committees
ca.2000

Box 1: 4
Cremation Society of New Hampshire: Circular letter, pamphlet, price lists
1996 Feb.
Box 1: 5
Fact sheet/membership application
ca.2000
Box 1: 6
Final arrangements planning documents
1996
Box 1: 7
Funeral Consumer's Alliance: Brochure creation tools
ca.2000
Box 1: 8
General price list survey responses
1998-2000
Box 1: 9
Income report by category/register report
2000 Sep.
Box 1: 10
Living will, blank
undated
Box 1: 11
New Hampshire consumer's source book
ca.2000
Box 1: 12
Newsletters
1993-1995
Box 1: 13
Petty cash report
1998
Box 1: 14

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Gift of Sandra Ward, 2024.

Processing Information

Processed by Jeremy Smith, November 2024.

Related Material

Additional materials include:

- The [Funeral Consumers Alliance of Western Massachusetts Records](#)

Language:

English

Copyright and Use ([More information](#))

Cite as: Memorial Society of New Hampshire (MS 1243). Robert S. Cox Special Collections and University Archives Research Center, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

Search terms

Subjects

- Consumer Protection--New Hampshire
- Death care industry--New Hampshire

- Funeral Homes--New Hampshire
- Funeral service--New Hampshire
- Funeral supplies industry--New Hampshire

Genres and formats

- Agendas (administrative records)
- Booklets
- Brochures
- Bylaws
- Financial statements
- Fliers
- Instructional materials
- Leaflets (printed works)
- Membership applications
- Membership lists
- Minutes (administrative records)
- Newsletters
- Price lists
- Subscription lists
- Surveys (documents)

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