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Protecting a consumer's right to choose meaningful, dignified, and affordable funerals since 1963

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**October 15, 2015**

**NEW REPORT ON FUNERAL SERVICES: THE COST OF DYING IS HARD TO DETERMINE AND WIDELY VARIING IN PRICE**

*Press Teleconference to Reveal New Data on Costs, Price Disclosures and Laws Which Fail to Protect Bereaved Consumers*

Washington, D.C. – At a 12 noon, EDT, press teleconference on Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, the Consumer Federation of America and the Funeral Consumers Alliance will release the results of a comprehensive report on the cost of dying in America. CFA and FCA will present data on a variety of funeral service costs from 10 major metropolitan areas. In addition, Stephen Brobeck, CFA's Executive Director and Joshua Slocum, FCA's Executive Director will address the inadequate disclosure rules issued by the FTC in 1984 and updated in 1994. The ten areas studied are Atlanta, DC, Philadelphia, Mercer County (NJ), Indianapolis, Minneapolis, Denver, Tucson, Orange County (CA) and Seattle. The services studied include direct cremation, immediate burial, and full service funerals.

**To be released at the press teleconference:**

- Price differences for the same services in the same markets
- Difficulties in obtaining funeral pricing information
- How different markets impact the price of services
- The effect of state disclosure requirements on price posting
- How funeral companies typically disclose pricing
- How the different types of funeral services compare in price
- Steps needed by the Federal Trade Commission to protect bereaved consumers

**EVENT:** Press Tele-conference: Release of New Report on Funeral Services and the Cost of Dying

**DATE:** Monday, October 19, 2015 12 p.m. EDT

**Call In #:** 800-593-9038 and use Passcode: CFACALL

**SPEAKERS:** Stephen Brobeck, Executive Director, CFA

Joshua Slocum, Executive Director, Funeral Consumers Alliance

**NO INFORMATION WILL BE RELEASED BEFORE THE TELE-CONFERENCE**

Release available after 11:30 am EDT October 19<sup>th</sup> at [www.consumerfed.org](http://www.consumerfed.org)

*The Consumer Federation of America is an association of more than 250 nonprofit consumer organizations that was established in 1968 to advance the consumer interest through research, advocacy, and education.*

*Funeral Consumers Alliance is a nonprofit federation of consumer education organizations. Founded in 1963, FCA works to educate the public on funeral options and costs in order to protect the consumer's right to choose a meaningful and affordable funeral.*