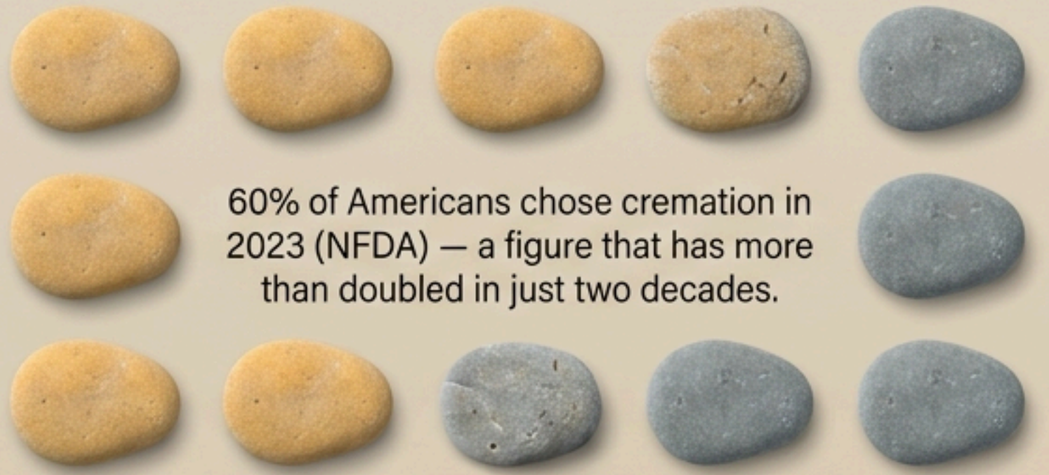

Deconstructing the Taboo
Breaking through industry jargon to empower your decisions.
Hoffmann Schneider
& Kitchen
FUNERAL HOME • CREMATORY • PREPLANNING
Because We Care



You Are Not Alone in the Confusion



60% of Americans chose cremation in 2023 (NFDA) — a figure that has more than doubled in just two decades.

Despite cremation becoming the majority choice, most families sit with us genuinely unsure of what cremation or burial actually entails, what the law requires, or what their rights are. We are here to provide a clear, honest picture.

Start with the Person, Not the Process

"At its heart, the choice between cremation and burial comes down to what happens to the body and where it ultimately rests. Everything else — the service, the gathering, the memorial — can be shaped around either option."

Two Paths Accompanied by Equal Dignity

Simple (Direct) Cremation



Direct transport to the crematory without a prior formal viewing.

Ashes are typically returned within a few days.

Offers ultimate flexibility to hold a deeply personal celebration of life on your own timeline.

Traditional Burial



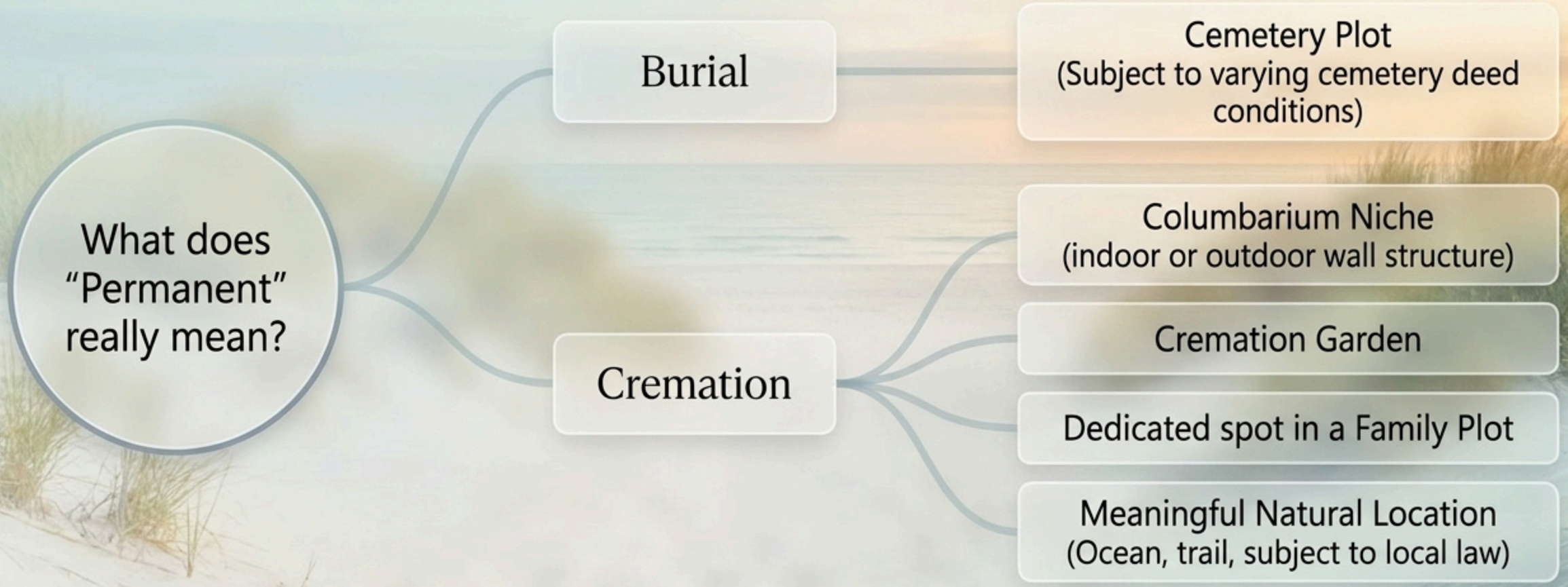
Involves preparation of the body, followed by a visitation or funeral service.

Interment in a cemetery provides a fixed, physical place for families to visit, offering a sense of continuity that matters deeply to many.

Comparing the Practical Realities

	Cremation	Burial
Timeline	Highly flexible; memorials can occur months later.	Immediate; services and interment usually happen within a week.
The Service	Service can happen before (with body) or after (with ashes).	Service traditionally precedes the cemetery interment.
Required Elements	Urn. (Scattering or niche placements are optional choices).	Burial plot, grave marker, and a vault or grave liner (required by most cemeteries, though not by law).

Reimagining a Permanent Resting Place



Cremation does not mean the absence of a permanent place. By scattering or dividing ashes, it can actually create multiple meaningful places for a family to visit.

Separating Legal Mandates from Industry Myths

Myth: Embalming is legally required.

Truth: It is almost never legally required. While there are narrow exceptions (like certain state-line transports), embalming is a choice, not a mandate.

Myth: A viewing is impossible without embalming.

Truth: Refrigeration can safely preserve the body for a short-period visitation in many circumstances. We will always discuss what is realistic for your specific situation.

Protecting Your Emotional and Financial Wellbeing

Myth: Cremation means you can 't have a traditional funeral service.

Truth: A full funeral service, with the body present, can absolutely take place before cremation. Many families choose exactly this path.

Myth: The most expensive option is the most respectful one.

Truth: Cost has no relationship to love or respect. A simple, meaningful service reflects a life just as beautifully as an elaborate one.

Your Rights Under the FTC Funeral Rule

The Federal Trade Commission has protected consumers since 1984. We want you to know your rights before making any decisions.

- **Total Transparency:** You have the right to an itemized General Price List upon request, before any arrangements begin.
- **No Forced Packages:** You are never legally obligated to purchase a package. You can build a service item by item.
- **Independent Casket Purchases**: You have the right to purchase a casket elsewhere. Funeral homes must accept it and cannot charge a handling fee.

Centering Your Decision

When families ask us how to choose, we suggest starting with the person, not the options.



The Person:
What did your loved one value most?

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W



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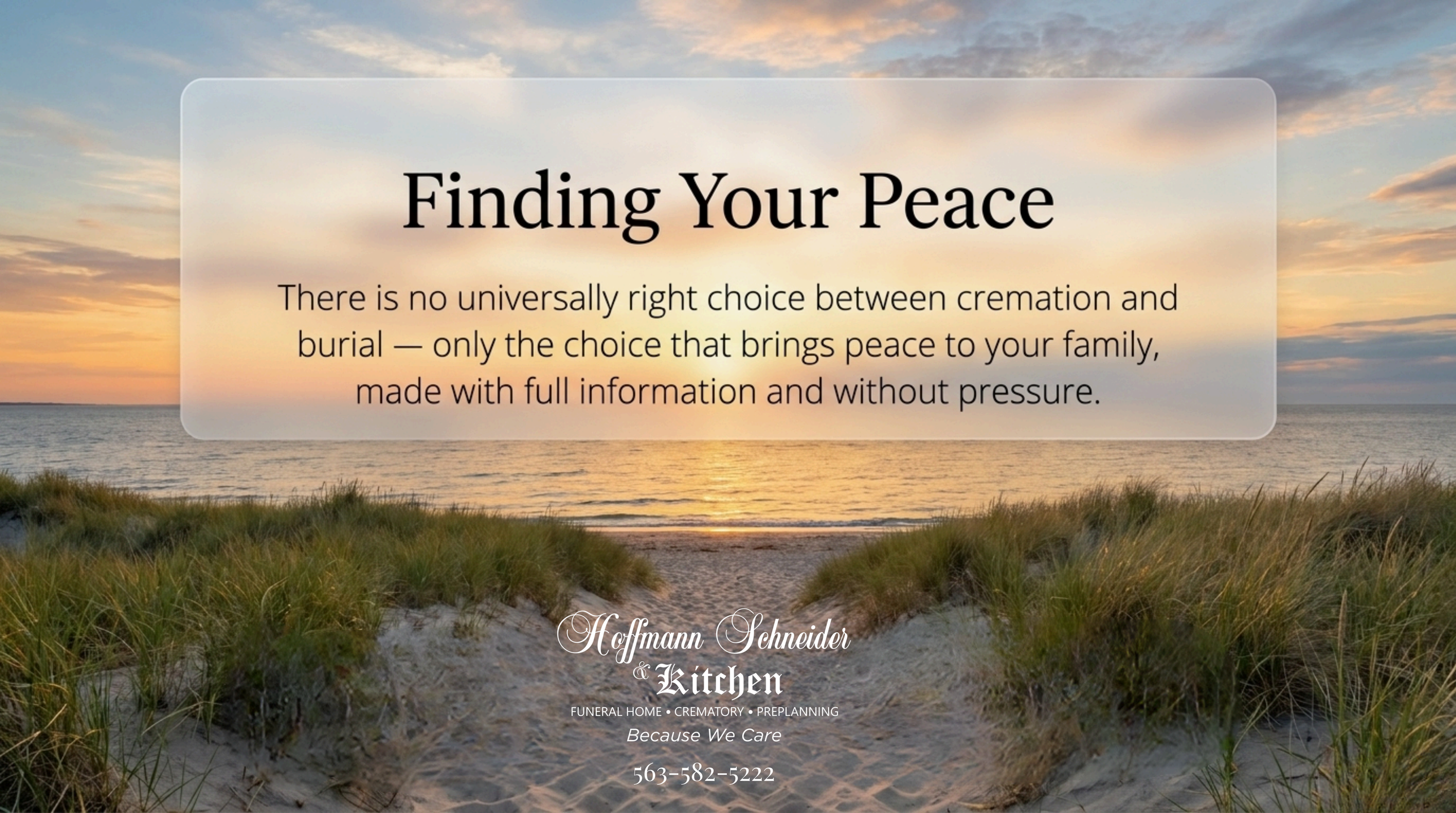
S

Sustainability:
What feels financially comfortable without creating hardship?

Tradition:
Are there religious or cultural traditions that guide you?

Gathering:
Is a single, fixed physical place important for those who need to grieve together?



Finding Your Peace

There is no universally right choice between cremation and burial — only the choice that brings peace to your family, made with full information and without pressure.

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563-582-5222