



## Scattering of Cremation Ashes in Nature...

The desire to spread or scatter the ashes of a loved one in a special place is an ever increasingly popular choice. Many of our clients have chosen this method of final placement of the ashes for various reasons to include love of nature or the seas, being uncomfortable with the idea of a formal cemetery burial, etc.

Here we have listed some helpful information for those who are considering spreading the ashes of a loved one. Please remember, this choice is a very important and irreversible one. It is a decision not to be taken lightly or hastily made. One of the beautiful things about cremation is that decisions such as this do not have to be made immediately. Scattering the ashes may be done at any future date, when you are sure you are ready.

## Our Sea Placement / Scattering Service...

A very popular method of scattering in our area is Ocean Scattering. We offer two options for this choice:

- **Unattended** We provide a respectful, dignified sea scattering service locally in the Gulf of Mexico. We depart port from the Madeira Beach area and travel west a minimum distance of 3 miles as required by US Code. Following the scattering, we will place flowers on the water to mark the spot. We record the exact longitude & latitude coordinates which are provided to you in the form of a certificate suitable for framing. If you wish to attend, Private Charters may also be arranged for an additional fee. Please inquire for current pricing.
- **Attended** We provide for a private charter of the vessel to take up to 6 attendees out for the scattering service locally in the Gulf of Mexico. You are put directly in contact with the charter service to coordinate dates, times and directions. We do not accompany you on this trip. If you require room for additional attendees, a second vessel may be arranged for an additional fee. Please inquire for current pricing.

**Scattering Urns** When placing cremated remains or ashes in the water, some people choose to pour them directly into the water. Many people, however have chosen to use urns specifically designed for this purpose. Using a biodegradable urn made specifically for ocean placement reduces the potential for problems with the wind and waves and may make for a much more pleasant experience. We have some options available which can be viewed online through our website <http://affinitycremation.com>.

## Ocean Scattering...Doing It Yourself

Being located so close to the coast, you may have access to your own vessel and wish to perform the sea placement on your own. As no special permitting is required for this in Florida, you may certainly do the scattering yourself. Here are some things to keep in mind though:

- You should travel at least 3 miles off the coast before scattering. US Code specifies this as the minimum distance from which scattering is permitted. In addition, US Code states that you should report the details of the scattering to the EPA Regional Office. *(For your convenience, you may download a copy of [US Code here](#)*
- Turn the boat into the wind when scattering and perform the scattering from the back of the boat. If you are able to drop anchor, this may help in keeping the boat turned into the wind. This will lessen the chances of the remains blowing back on you or the passengers. Also, if you are pouring the ashes directly into the water, get down close to the water to avoid splash back.
- You may wish to consider using an urn specifically designed for the water placement or scattering. This option can include biodegradable urns or other urns designed to aid in the scattering process. Some examples are available through our website: <http://www.affinitycremation.com/>.
- Take along some flowers. Following scattering or placement, placing flowers on the water to mark the site can be very memorable. We recommend using rose petals as they work especially well for this.
- If you are able, record the navigational coordinates of the spot where the scattering takes place. With current technology, it is very easy to return to the exact spot again at some future special date if you should so wish.
- Please exercise all boating safety rules. Nothing would be worse than adding additional tragedy to the grief you are already experiencing because safety rules were ignored. We want the scattering service to be a memorable and safe event for you and your family.

## Scattering or Placement over Land...

While ocean placement is a favorite in Florida, many people prefer spreading the ashes over land.

There are no laws in Florida which specifically prohibit the scattering of cremation ashes. This does not mean however, that you may scatter ashes anywhere you choose. Certain common laws may apply.

We suggest that you think of the cremated remains as being your own private property. You would not be allowed to deposit your private property on public lands, parks, lakes, etc. or on someone else's property without their consent. The same restrictions apply to cremated remains.

You should exercise due diligence, making sure that no laws are violated. The laws of different states may vary. Be sure you are aware of the laws in the state where you plan to scatter. Here are some suggestions which apply to Florida:

- Scattering on your own private property or the private property of another who has given you permission is acceptable. We recommend obtaining this permission in writing.
- Scattering over public lands (i.e., state parks, county or city parks, beach, etc.) is not usually permitted without the expressed permission from the appropriate governmental agency with authority over the site.
- Scattering of ashes is permitted within many popular national parks with a **Special Use Permit**. For more information on scattering ashes within a national park, please contact the [National Park Service](#). Each Park Superintendent may set their own criteria for permitting scattering so be sure you have obtained permission from the specific park you wish to visit. Most parks charge a small fee for this permit.

- Where ever you choose to scatter over land, you should spread the ashes in such a manner that you achieve complete dispersal so that no obvious amounts or piles of the cremated remains are evident.
- Be mindful of the wind. As cremated ashes will adhere to clothing when dispersed, it is recommended that you keep the wind at your back and perform the dispersal downwind of any observers.
- You may wish to consider the use of a biodegradable urn which may be buried in the ground and is designed to decompose underground providing for a completely eco-friendly burial. Some examples are available in our <http://www.affinitycremation.com/>.
- Please recognize the sensitivity of this activity. We would encourage you to handle the event in a discreet and private manner so that others are not offended.

For more information please contact us at  
**(813) 684-7500**  
or email [info@affinitycremation.com](mailto:info@affinitycremation.com)

**Disclaimer:** The information provided here is to assist you in the proper, legal dispersal of cremated human ashes in the state of Florida, USA. You should consult the laws of your area before proceeding. Nothing obtained in this document should be misconstrued to be a grant of permission or authority from us to disperse cremated ashes at a location which would be in violation of any local, state or federal laws or which would violate the rights of any person or entity. If you choose to disperse cremated ashes, you do so at your own risk and may be held responsible for all violations of any applicable law. Affinity Direct Cremation Service will not be held responsible for any violations or losses suffered due to improper or illegal scattering of cremated ashes.