

A Quarter of Deaths Lead to Feuds between Family and Friends, with 60% Fuelled by Finances

A new study conducted by a provider of funeral plans in the UK has revealed that more than a quarter of deaths lead to arguments between family and/or friends, with the majority of these rows motivated by finances.

New research from a UK provider of funeral plans has unveiled that 27% of deaths in the UK lead to arguments between family and/or friends, with 60% of these rows motivated by finances. Other likely causes behind the discord include disagreements over funeral arrangements and the division of the deceased's estate.

The study, conducted by www.perfectchoicefunerals.com, polled 2,117 British adults, all of whom were aged 18 or over. Participants were questioned about their experiences of funerals; all respondents had been to a funeral within the past two years.

Those taking part were asked whether there had been any arguments or feuds following the death of a friend or family member. 65% stated that there weren't any arguments following a death, 8% said that they weren't sure as they were not close enough to the family hub to know, with the remaining 27% stating that there had been arguments or feuds following the death of a family member and/or friend.

In an attempt to understand the most common causes behind these disagreements, the survey then asked those who had indicated that a death had resulted in a feud to provide further details. Respondents were asked "What caused the argument or feud among the family members / friends of the deceased?" and were able to select all answers they felt were applicable, revealing the below top 5:

- 1) Financial disagreements – 60%
- 2) Differing views on funeral arrangements – 51%
- 3) Division of the deceased's estate – 41%
- 4) Existing family/friend issue – 28%
- 5) Final resting place of coffin/ashes – 21%

The survey then asked the same respondents to indicate when the disagreements had occurred or come to a pinnacle, with 49% confessing that the tensions had reached their peak during the funeral itself. A further 21% stated that the feud was unveiled when the will /redistribution of the assets was revealed.

Finally, the survey asked the same group of respondents whether the feuds had subsequently been resolved. Two thirds (67%) stated that yes, the disagreements had been resolved, while the remaining 33% stating that they hadn't.

Michael Liddle from Neville Funeral Service Ltd, a local independent funeral director based in Beds, Herts and Bucks said "The death of a family member or friend is always a difficult situation where all those involved will be experiencing raw, heightened emotions that unfortunately sometimes spill out into situations where they wouldn't normally.



It is regrettable that these emotions will come to a head when it is least appropriate, whether they are existing or new and often when combined with other internal and external influences. We would always encourage people who are grieving to be particularly patient and tolerant of everyone involved at such a hard time, to ensure that nothing escalates where it need not.

We also encourage people to be upfront about their funeral wishes to reduce any potential conflict at the time of the funeral – this is where a pre-arranged funeral plan can come in useful as it allows people to record their wishes and get agreement from their families in advance of the funeral.”

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About Perfect Choice Funeral Plans

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Perfect Choice Funeral Plans are provided by NAFD Services Limited which was set-up by the National Association of Funeral Directors (NAFD) whose member firms carry out over 80% of all funerals in the UK. NAFD Services Limited is a founding member of the Funeral Planning Authority, the official body that oversees the operation of companies offering funeral plans.

Perfect Choice Funeral Plan funds are held securely in a guaranteed whole of life assurance policy. For maximum security NAFD Services only works with UK-based life assurance companies that are authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) and regulated by the PRA and Financial Conduct Authority. A key difference with Perfect Choice Funeral Plans is that the pre-payment monies cannot be used for anything other than the client’s funeral for total peace of mind.

